MAKING AND DRESSING MINIATURE TEDDY BEARS

JULIE K. OWEN

CONTENTS

Introduction 4

Materials and Tools 6

General Stitching Instructions 9

BASIC BEARS

NUMBER ONE
Bartholomew 12
Beatrice 19

NUMBER TWO
Sad Old Harry 20

NUMBER THREE
Elizabeth 24

NUMBER FOUR
George 26

NUMBER FIVE
Thomas 29

NUMBER SIX
Baby Bear 32

NUMBER SEVEN
Walter 33

NUMBER EIGHT
Pete the Sailor 36

NUMBER NINE
Polar Bear 40

NUMBER TEN
Bottlebrush Blossom Bear 42

BIRTHDAY BEARS 46

JANUARY
New Year Reveller 47

FEBRUARY
Valentine Bears 49

MARCH
St Patrick's Day Bear 52

APRIL
The Jester 55

MAY
Maypole Bear 60

JUNE
Wedding Bears 63

JULY
Uncle Sam Bear 71

AUGUST
Sun-blessed Bear 76

SEPTEMBER
Back to School Bears 81

OCTOBER
Halloween Bear 84

NOVEMBER
Sleigh Ride Bears 87

DECEMBER
Christmas Bear 89

Birth Certificate 94
Suppliers and Contacts 95
Index 96

INTRODUCTION

When visiting a teddy bear fair I was drawn to the miniature bears and felt I had to take one home. That initial interest was soon followed up by a desire to make one of my own – and that was how it all began. I didn't find much information to help me when I started, so this book is designed to fill that gap and help make it much easier for you.

This book contains clear step-by-step instructions which will take you through to making your completed miniature bear, including many tips to help you obtain a truly professional finish and avoid the pitfalls of miniature bear making. Having the correct tools and materials takes all the hard work out of miniature bear making and all the essential information you need is included. I am happy to pass on the knowledge I have gained over the years from workshops I've attended and courses I have taught – it is wonderful to see the delight each new bear brings to the person who made it.

In addition to the instructions for making 10 adorable miniature teddy bears, you will also be shown how to go on to produce the birthday teddy bears (see page 46), one for each month of the year. These make the perfect gift for that special occasion or form a wonderful collection for you to keep, and instructions are included for making many of the props so you can create complete scenes in which to display your finished bears.

Miniature bears are generally accepted as being less than 5in (12.5cm) tall. Which of the ten featured designs will you choose to stitch?

MATERIALS AND TOOLS

'A bear remains a bear – even when most of him has fallen off or worn away.'

CHARLOTTE GRAY

One of the many advantages of miniature bear making is that you don't need much fabric or many tools, so you can create your bears quite cheaply. It also means that you can afford to splash out on quality fabrics and on buying yourself a few helpful tools. You'll find that some of these, like forceps and dental tweezers, make your job much easier and will enable you to make a better bear.

FABRIC

One of the main considerations when choosing fabrics for miniature bear making is whether or not the fabric frays. Because the bears are so small, only a small seam allowance is given and therefore if the fabric is too loosely woven it will fray very easily and your seams won't hold. For people new to miniature bear making it is also best to avoid fabric that has a very short pile or is completely flat, as it can be more difficult to obtain good results when closing seams.

Many of the fabrics suitable for making miniature bears are available with a distressed finish which is obtained by a steaming process in the manufacture of the fabric and gives an old, well-worn effect. Crushed velvet is an example of this.

Upholstery fabric is an excellent choice. It has a firm backing which does not stretch when stuffed and does not usually fray. The length of the pile varies, and on many upholstery fabrics it is quite short and even flat.

Pure mohair for miniature bears is available in different pile lengths starting from ⅛in (3mm). Again, it is available in a wide range of colours and you can also dye it yourself or buy mohair that has been hand-dyed. Sparse mohair is also available which gives the bears a different look, as illustrated by Sad Old Harry (page 20).

Velvet can be used to make miniature bears but it usually frays badly. However, it can be treated before you start sewing. There are commercial products available for this purpose. Fray Check crystals are particularly good because you can actually treat the whole piece of fabric before cutting out, (see Suppliers, page 95) but two alternatives are clear nail varnish and PVA glue. PVA glue should be diluted with equal parts of water and can be applied with a wooden cocktail stick. Both PVA and nail varnish should be applied after the pieces have been cut out.

Felt tends to stretch when you stuff it, but you can prevent this by applying iron-on interfacing to the felt before cutting out your pieces. This provides a suitably firm backing.

Silk or cotton with small prints can be used by the more experienced bear maker, but it may be necessary to apply an iron-on interfacing to give a firmer backing and also to treat the edges to avoid fraying.

Ultra-suede is often used for paws and pads. This is fine suede which is available in a wide range of colours.

Suedette is a synthetic fabric which can also be used for paws and pads, but this is usually thicker than ultra-suede and therefore quite bulky. You may find

it more difficult to use because the paws and pads are so tiny.

There are many miniature bear suppliers who will send bear fabrics and other specialist items by post (see Suppliers, page 95) and more can be found in teddy bear magazines. For a nominal fee companies will usually send small swatches of their fabrics.

Threads

Polyester-cotton general-purpose sewing thread is ideal for stitching miniature bears. Use a colour which matches the backing of your fabric.

Nylon monofil 'invisible' thread is initially more difficult to use than polyester-cotton because you can't see where you have sewn – or what you are sewing with. If you thread your needle with it and then knot the two ends together it avoids the problem of your needle coming off all the time. Do not use it to close seams with ladder stitch because it does not give a very good finish. However, it is very useful when dressing or making accessories for the bears when a stitch is required to hold something in place invisibly.

Extra-strong nylon thread is used mainly for thread jointing in miniature bears. It is usually available in black, brown or white but as it will not be visible when the bear is completed, it does not matter what colour you use.

Stranded embroidery thread is used for noses and claws – usually black. For miniature bears you generally only need to use one strand at a time.

Fillings

Polyester filling is usually used for miniature bears because it enables you to obtain a firm, even finish. Kapok can also be used.

Glass-bead filling is used to add weight and is a relatively new filling for miniature bears. As you can't actually mould it into shape, it is usually put in the body only. If you do want to use it in the limbs it may be necessary to use cotter pin joints because the thread jointing system does not hold in place. Alternatively, insert some polyester filling at the top of the limbs where the thread joints will go and this should avoid the arms and legs coming off. A syringe provides a good, clean way of stuffing the bear when using glass bead filling.

Components

Joints A joint consists of a pin with two round discs. When a measurement is given this usually refers to the diameter of the round discs. Miniature bear joints are available in different sizes starting from ⅛in (6mm) and are usually sold in sets of five joints to make one bear. However, all the miniature bears in this book are thread jointed with the exception of Pete the Sailor (page 36) and Bottlebrush Blossom Bear (page 42) so you only need a joint for the head. A round brass paperclip with prongs that open out can be used but I have not found this to be successful. You can also make your own cotter pin joints – see page 37 (Peter the Sailor).

Eyes Black onyx beads are available in various sizes, starting at less than ⅛in (2mm). They are usually round and bed into the bear's head very well. Glass eyes on wire are available in small sizes from specialist suppliers which enable you to use two-colour eyes. They are usually amber with a black pupil. Sometimes the wires are already cut and the loops formed, ready to attach to your bear. Small black glass embroidery beads can also be used.

Miniature Bear Tools

Most of the things you need to make miniature bears will be found in your work box including glass-headed pins, thimble and stiletto. However, there are a few special tools you will need:

Sewing needles Fine needles are recommended for the small stitches needed for small bears. No. 10 or No. 11 sharps are ideal. A darning needle is required for thread jointing.

Scissors Two pairs of scissors are required: one pair of small, sharp, pointed scissors which should only be used for cutting fabric and threads and never used to cut anything else; and another pair for cutting paper and thin card when making templates. (If you use your fabric scissors to cut paper you will blunt them.)

Round-nose pliers are required to turn the cotter pin joints. There is also a tool called a cotter key for turning the joints.

Curved artery forceps are invaluable when turning the bear's limbs right side out. Insert the forceps in the limb and lock them to hold the fabric so you can pull it through. Take care not to pull the pile off the fabric. If this does happen, repair it by applying a small dab of glue to the bald patch and then put the pile back on. Alternatively, make a new limb. Curved artery forceps are available from miniature bear suppliers.

Dental tweezers have a curved end which enables you to put the stuffing exactly where you want it. Available from specialist miniature bear suppliers.

A teasel brush is used when your miniature bear is complete to remove any pile that has been trapped in the seams. Available from haberdashery departments or from specialist miniature bear suppliers.

A sleeve board is like a long, narrow 'mini' ironing board and is very useful when pressing small clothes.

Glue It is preferable to stitch rather than glue because it is usually more permanent and using glue can sometimes look messy or make the fabric very stiff. However, when making accessories there are times when it is necessary to glue, in which case the glue sold by dolls' house suppliers is recommended. Try Hi-Tack, an all-purpose glue which dries clear and is flexible. You'll also need a solid glue stick for gluing your tracings of the pattern pieces onto the card to make your templates.

Thin cardboard (postcard or a cereal packet) is required for making templates.

GENERAL STITCHING INSTRUCTIONS

'A stitch in time saves nine, but a stitch in a bear saves stuffing.'

ANONYMOUS

Even though you are itching to get started, you'll make a much better bear and find the process much simpler, more straightforward and enjoyable if you read through the following general instructions before you begin. You'll be working on a very small scale, so it's vital that you cut out all the pieces and stitch them very accurately. This chapter tells you how and provides some very useful pointers on assembling your bear. With such a wide variety of fabrics available, depending on the fabric you choose your bear will often look quite different to those illustrated. This is not because it has turned out wrong, but because your bear is personal to you.

MAKING YOUR TEMPLATES

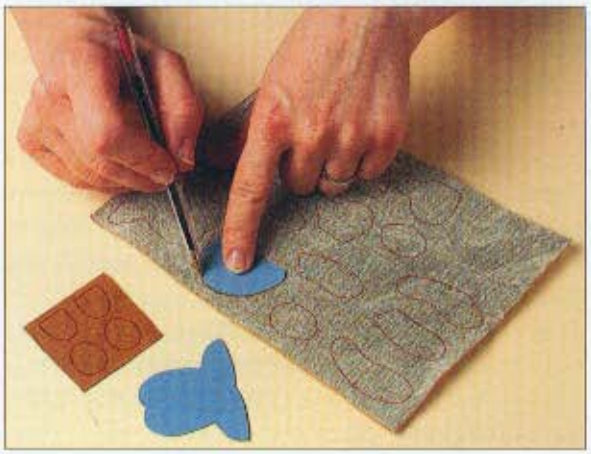
You will find the patterns for all the bears alongside their instructions. You have to stitch them very accurately, and you'll find this much easier if you mark the stitching line on the fabric, rather than the cutting line. You do this by drawing around templates. To make templates from the patterns carefully trace each piece and glue the tracing onto a piece of card (a cereal packet or a postcard is ideal). Add all markings to the templates and label them, then cut round each card piece with your scissors used for paper or card.

TIP – Labelling your pieces

Keep each set of templates in a small plastic bag and label with details of the pattern source and the size of the finished bear.

POSITIONING THE PATTERN

Check your fabric to find the direction of the pile by gently running your hand down the fabric in different directions. When your hand runs smoothly, that is the direction of the pile. The pattern pieces should each be positioned on the reverse side of the fabric with the arrow pointing in the direction of the pile.



CUTTING OUT THE FABRIC

Do not pin the templates onto the fabric because they are too small – hold each template in position and draw round it with a gel pen, leaving gaps between pieces for

the seam allowances, as shown on page 9. The pen line indicates the sewing line, not the cutting line, so do not cut on the line. Use small, sharp fabric scissors to cut carefully round all the pieces approximately ⅛in (3mm) outside the line – this is your seam allowance.

USEFUL STITCHES

You only need to know how to work a few simple stitches to complete the miniature bears in this book. Most seams are stitched with ordinary backstitch and any gaps remaining after stuffing are closed with ladder stitch. You'll also need to know how to work satin stitch for the bears' noses. All these stitches are explained and demonstrated here.

Backstitch should be used to stitch all seams unless otherwise directed. Work small stitches along the line, gently pulling the thread tight after every two or three stitches (see top right).

Double stitches are used to secure your work. Simply stitch into the same holes twice (see right). This is usually done at the beginning and end of a seam and at certain points where extra strength is needed, such as at the bear's neck.

Ladder stitch is used to close all gaps in the seams. It enables you to stitch two pieces together on the right sides, almost invisibly, and it is a most important stitch in miniature bear making (see below right). Use thread to match your miniature bear fabric.

Once you have completed ladder stitching a seam tie a knot in the thread but do not pull it tight. Insert your needle back into the knot and run the knot down to the surface of the fabric. Insert your needle back into the hole you came out of and bring it out well away from where you finished stitching. Give a sharp tug on the needle and you'll hear the knot pop through into the bear. Cut off the thread close to the fabric.

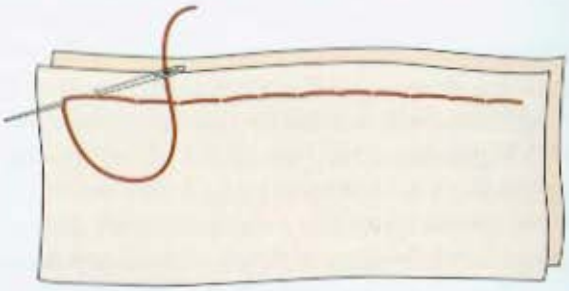
Oversewing, also called overcast stitch, is sometimes used to join pieces of fabric together for clothes or accessories, such as the sections of Uncle Sam Bear's hat (see page 73).

Running stitch is used in this book to gather up fabric, both on the bears and for their outfits.

Satin stitch is used for filling in the bears' noses. This is usually done with one strand of black stranded embroidery thread.

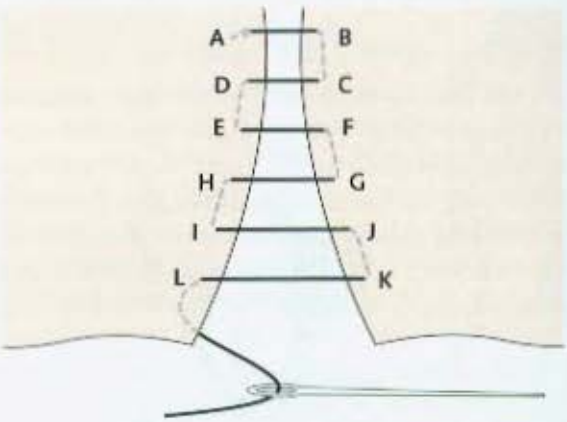
Working Backstitch

Bring the needle out at A. Take it back through at B and bring it out to the left of A at C, so that the distance between A and C is the same as the distance between A and B. Work the next stitch by taking the needle through at A and out at D, then continue working in the same way with small, even stitches.



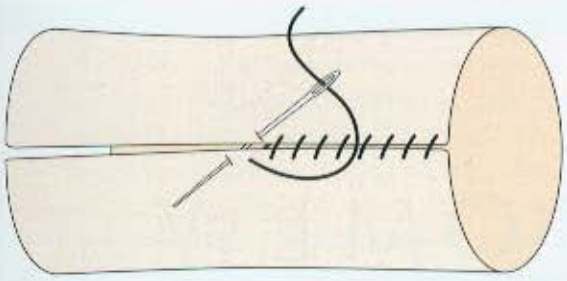
Working Double Stitches

Simply work back over the previous stitch, bringing the needle and thread through the same fabric holes as before.



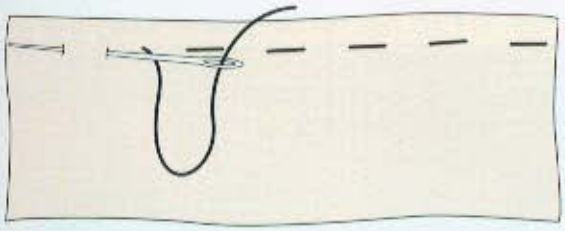
Working Ladder Stitch

Starting with a knot, bring your needle out at A and go across into B, come out at C and go in at D. Continue in this way, stopping after every two or three stitches to pull the thread tight, and tucking in the raw edges as you go.



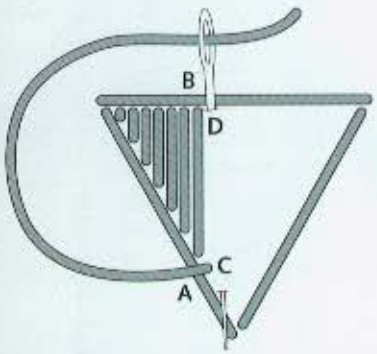
Oversewing

Working from right to left, pick up a little of one fabric. Catch the other fabric and then pass the needle through to the first fabric in one movement, as shown. Repeat to stitch the seam. Use this stitch to join two fabric edges together, working from the right side.



Working Running Stitch

Working from right to left, 'run' the needle in and out of the fabric to create small, evenly spaced stitches, as shown. If you are working running stitch to gather up fabric, especially if it is fairly thick fabric, it is often best to use a double thread for strength.



Working Satin Stitch

Bring the needle up at A and insert it at B. Bring it up again at C (next to A) and insert it at D (next to B). Continue in the same way to fill in the area required with close stitches that butt up together.

Helpful hints and pointers

❉ The line drawn round each template is the sewing line unless stated otherwise in the instructions – cut out the pieces approximately ⅛in (3mm) outside this line. (When using light coloured fabrics it is often best to mark the cutting line, not the sewing line, on the fabric in case your pen line shows through, as for the Polar Bear, page 40.)

❉ When transferring a pattern onto dark fabric use a white or silver pencil or gel pen. Alternatively, try a dressmaker's chalk pencil, although you have to be careful because this rubs off easily.

❉ Before stitching, place the pieces together with right sides facing and secure with just one pin or a single tacking stitch (see the tip on page 25). This holds the pieces together while you sew the seam.

❉ Sew all pieces together with right sides facing, stitching on the pen line unless stated otherwise in the instructions, then turn right sides out. You may find it helpful to tack the end of the seam before you start to make sure you get a good fit.

❉ Do not sew too close to the fabric edge or you may find that the stitches pull away when stuffed – holes in seams can be difficult to repair. This is a particular problem with fabrics which fray easily such as mohair.

❉ Ideally use bear forceps when turning the limbs but if you don't have this tool an orange stick (used for nail manicures) can be helpful. For details of where to obtain bear forceps see Suppliers, page 95.

❉ To finish your thread go over your last stitch again and then weave the needle back along the previous stitches and cut off.

❉ Remember, small bears need small stitches and, as you are working on a tiny scale, any deviation from the pattern will change the shape or proportions of your bear, so work carefully.

BASIC BEAR NUMBER ONE

BARTHOLOMEW

A step-by-step guide to making a basic bear

'How did children ever manage before bears?'

JESSE O'NEILL

This pocket-sized bear has an open, sunny expression. He can turn his head, wave his arms and sit or stand, making him very versatile and instantly charming. Yet despite all this he is relatively easy to make and is an excellent bear for beginners. You could make him as a present, but once you've met him you'll find him difficult to part with.

Bartholomew is the first basic bear. Make him as he is and then try making him in different fabrics, changing his expression or giving him clothes to turn him into a whole new bear. Beatrice (page 19), for example, is the same bear made in soft pink upholstery fabric and her face has been thread sculpted to give her a very different look. Uncle Sam Bear (page 71) is also based on Bartholomew but his clothing changes his appearance considerably.

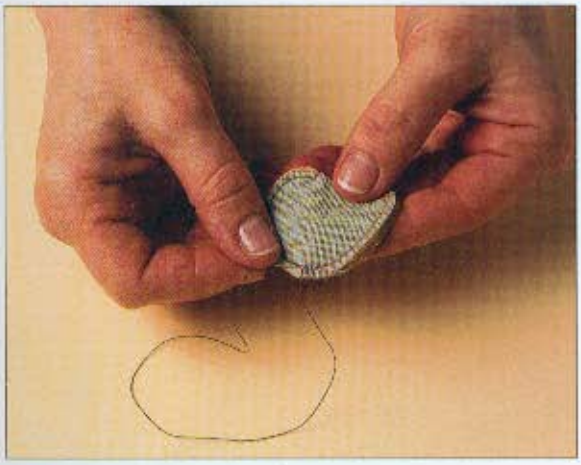
You will need

- 6 x 9in (15 x 23cm) miniature bear fabric (American upholstery fabric, short pile mohair or soft upholstery fabric)
- Matching ultra suede for paws and pads
- General-purpose sewing thread to match the bear fabric
- Black extra-strong nylon thread for attaching the eyes
- Extra-strong nylon thread for jointing
- Black stranded embroidery thread for the nose
- Darning and fine sharp needles
- Polyester filling
- Pair of tiny (2mm) black beads for eyes
- One ¼in (6mm) fibreboard cotter pin joint
- Ribbon for trimming Bartholomew

FINISHED SIZE
3½IN (9.5CM)

Making Bartholomew

Trace the pieces for Bartholomew bear from page 15 and use them to make card templates (see page 9). Transfer the paws and foot pads onto a single layer of ultra suede and cut out, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each piece. Transfer the remaining pieces onto the wrong side of a single layer of miniature bear fabric with the arrow on the pattern pointing in the direction of the fabric pile. Cut out the pieces, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each one. Make the bear following the instructions below, using backstitch for joining pieces and ladder stitch for closing seams (see page 10).



1 *Joining the body* Pin the two body pieces together with right sides facing. Beginning at A with a double stitch, sew right round to B, being sure to stitch exactly on the pen line. Work a double stitch on each side of the line marked where the neck joint will be. Work a double stitch to finish, then knot the thread on the wrong side and trim off the thread end. Turn right sides out.

2 *Joining the arms* With right sides together, sew the straight edge of an ultra suede paw to the straight edge of each inner arm. Then, with right sides together, sew each inner arm to an outer arm, beginning at A and working round the top, side and lower edge to B. Turn right sides out, turning the top part first – the paw will follow through.

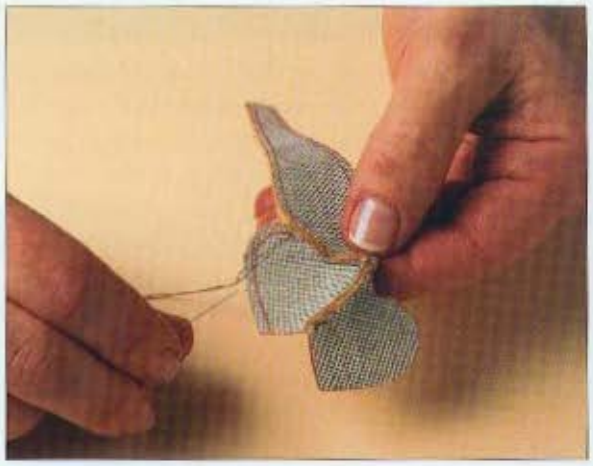
3 *Joining the legs* Fold each leg in half lengthways with right sides together and sew round the top of the leg from A to B. Work two or three extra stitches to take you round the corner and thus avoid a 'square top of the leg'. Then sew the top of the foot from C to D, but leave your needle and thread attached. (See the tip on page 34 for a remedy for 'square top of the leg'.)

4 *Attaching the foot pads* Fold each foot pad in half lengthways and mark the centre at each end. Line up the slightly narrower end with the seam of one leg at D and secure with two or three stitches. This anchors the pad in place while you stitch it. Finish off your thread and rejoin at the heel fold line which should be aligned with the fold of the leg. Take a few stitches to hold it in place and then continue with backstitch round the foot pad. When complete, turn the legs right sides out, turning the top part first – the lower leg and foot will follow through.

5 *Preparing the head* As the head will be stuffed quite firmly use your thread double for sewing the head pieces together. Thread your needle and knot the ends together. Pin the two head pieces together with right sides facing and begin by sewing the seam from A (front neck) to B (nose). Work a double stitch at B but do not finish off the thread. (You will continue using this thread to attach the head gusset.)

TIP – Firm filling

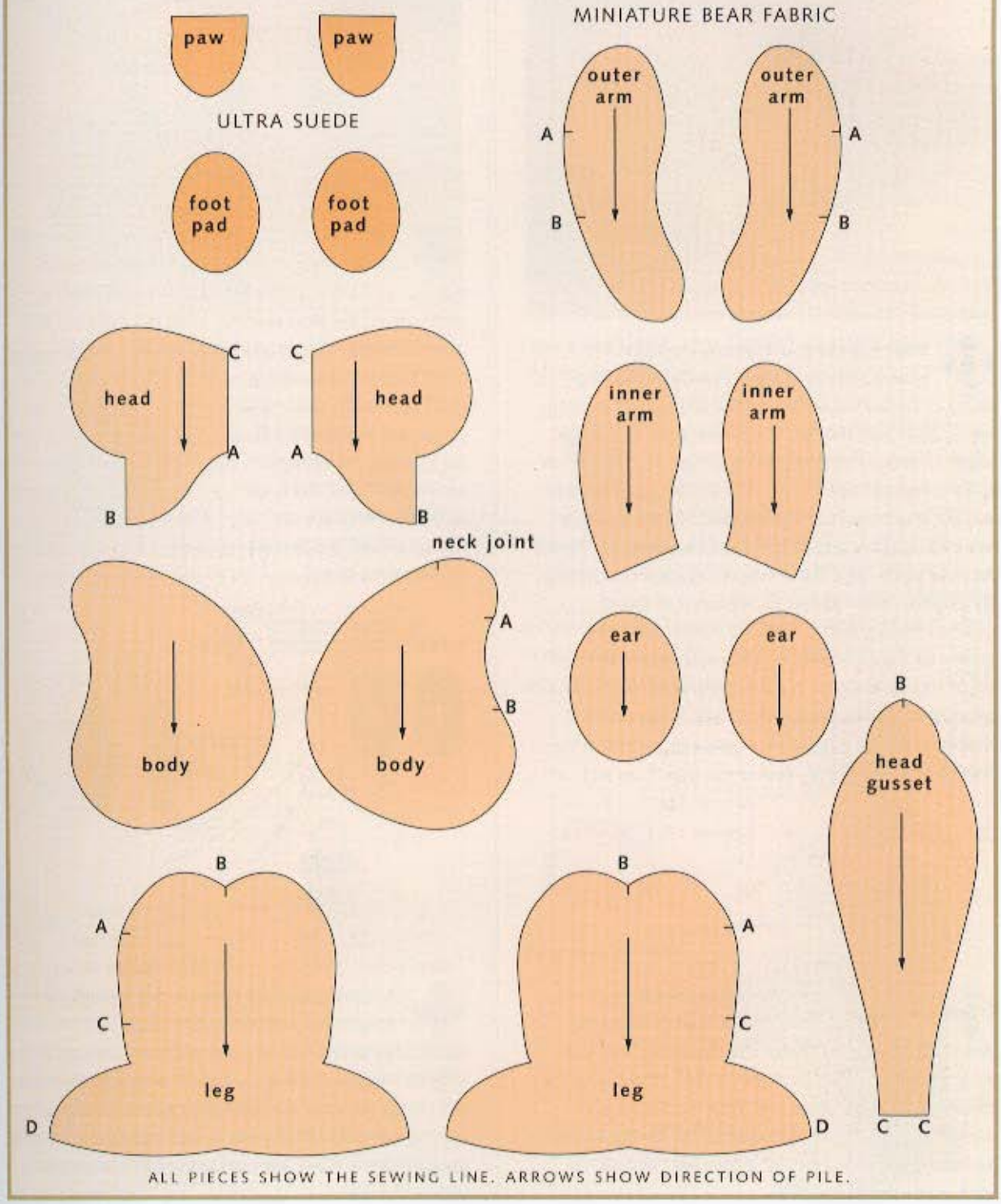
Bear tweezers are invaluable for filling the bear's limbs because you can literally put the filling where you want it and get right to the tip of the paws and pads. These also enable you to pack the filling in which gives a good firm finish to your bear. For details of where to obtain bear tweezers see Suppliers, page 95.



6 *Attaching the head gusset* Beginning at the centre mark on the rounded end of the head gusset, sew the gusset to one head piece, starting at B (nose) and ending at C (back neck). Finish off the thread. If there is any excess fabric at the end of the head gusset you must cut it off now. To complete the head, start with a new double length of thread. Return to the centre of the nose and sew the head and head gusset from B back to C on the other side of the head. It's a good idea to do a 'teddy tack' (see the tip on page 25) at C to hold the pieces while sewing. When completed turn right sides out.

7 *Filling the limbs and head* Now it's time to fill the limbs and head. Do not fill the body. Pull the filling apart and then insert small amounts at a time. Be sure to put plenty of filling in the pads of the arms and also the front of the feet. Stuff each of the four limbs firmly. Stuff the head firmly and in particular the nose area.

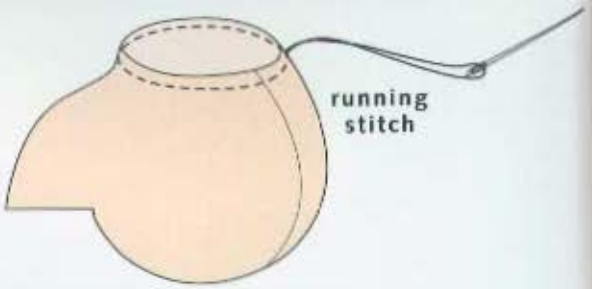
Actual-size pattern for Bartholomew



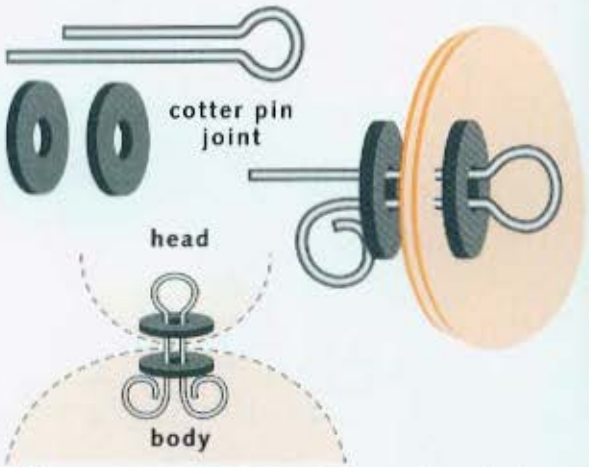
ALL PIECES SHOW THE SEWING LINE. ARROWS SHOW DIRECTION OF PILE.

8 *Adding the eyes* Use two pins to locate the correct position of the eyes – they should be placed at the base of the nose, close to the head gusset seams. Make sure they are level. Slip a bead onto a long length of black extra-strong nylon thread. Push both ends of the thread through the eye of a needle (you may need to use a larger needle to accommodate them). Carefully remove one of the pins as you insert your needle in exactly the same place. Bring the needle out at the head opening. Slip off your needle and tie the two ends of thread together. Starting with a new length of thread repeat the process for the other eye. Tie just one knot with the two sets of threads and then pull the threads very tightly so the eyes embed themselves in their sockets. Keep a firm tension on the threads and tie off securely with several knots. Cut off the thread ends.

9 *Making the ears* Fold each ear in half lengthways with right sides together and stitch round the semi-circle, leaving the thread attached at the end. Cut along the fold and turn inside out. Ladder stitch along the opening. Fold in half again and stitch the two corners together, still leaving the thread attached. Pin the ears to the head in line with the head gusset seam and attach using ladder stitch.

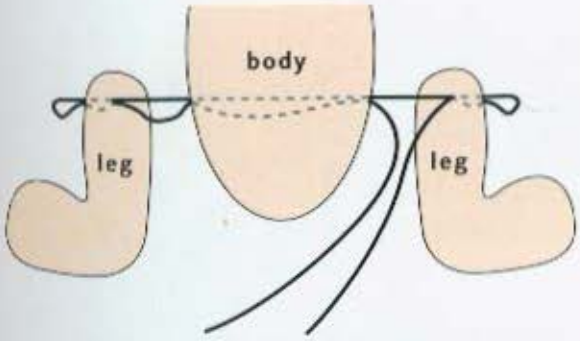


10 *Preparing the head joint* Thread your needle with extra-strong nylon thread and knot both ends together to make a double thread. Work small running stitch around the head opening. Insert the cotter pin joint with one washer placed on it and then pull the running stitch tight so the opening is completely closed with just the joint peg protruding. Secure the thread and finish by working several extra stitches around the peg; cut off the excess thread.



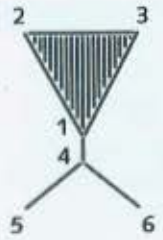
11 *Attaching the head* Poke the peg through the body at the point where you did the extra backstitches on the body for the head joint. Through the body opening, peel the fabric back so the peg is accessible and put on the other washer. Open out the two prongs of the peg and curl each one round, back onto the washer. Fill the body firmly. Close any remaining gaps in the seams with ladder stitch.

12 *Positioning the limbs* Use four pins to mark the positions of the arms and legs. Make sure the tops of the arms are level and are positioned more towards the back of the body than the front. The legs should line up directly under the arm positions and should be approximately ⅛in (12mm) up from the bottom of the body. Check the tops of the bear's legs are level and that he will be able to stand up straight and sit correctly.



13 *Thread-jointing the limbs* Thread the darning needle with approximately 20in (51cm) of extra-strong nylon thread and knot both ends together to make a double thread. With the bear facing you, insert the needle into the right-hand side of the body at one leg pin and bring it out the other side, where the other pin is. Do not pull all the thread through. Pass the needle through the left leg, then pass it back through the leg where it just came from, making sure it goes back into the exact same hole it came out of – otherwise your bear will have a dimple when the thread is pulled tight. Check the thread is free running and that you have not caught the original thread on your return journey, then bring it out again at the right-hand side of the body where you first started. Pass the needle through the right leg and return it the same way it came so it comes out between the right leg and the body. Tie a knot and pull very tightly. Check the legs are correctly positioned and then secure with several knots. Cut off the knot on the very end of the thread and take each end back into the body before cutting off. Now your bear has legs. Thread joint the arms in the same way.

14 *Adding the nose* It is easier to do the nose last because you can hold the bear better and also see how the nose looks. Each bear will be different – some may need a larger nose, some a smaller nose. Start by carefully clipping the pile away around the nose. Using one strand



of black stranded cotton and no knot, insert the needle at the back of the head and come out at 1. Do not pull right through – leave a short length. Go in at 2 and back out at 3. Insert the needle back into 2, come out again at 3 and then go back in at 1. This should give you a small triangular outline. Fill in the triangle with close satin stitches and when completely covered bring your needle out at position 1, ready to work the mouth.

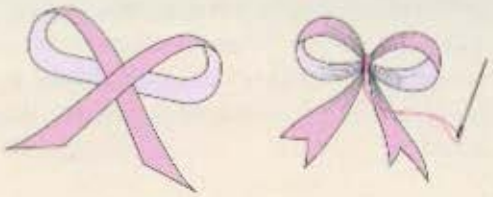
15 *Working the mouth* Take the needle down at position 4 and out at 5. Now take the needle through the loop made at position 4 and back in at 6 to give the other side of the mouth. Finally, bring your needle out at the back of the head, take a tiny stitch and bring your needle out somewhere away from the stitch. Cut off the black thread very close to the fabric and the end should disappear. Cut off the beginning of the thread too.

16 *Finishing your bear* Brush your bear gently with a small teasel brush, paying particular attention to the seams, then add a bow using one of the two methods below. If you have narrow ribbon, make a basic bow, but with wide ribbon follow the instructions for a pinched bow.

Making bows

Basic Bow

The secret of a good bow is to start with a length of ribbon approximately 8-10in (20-25cm) long. Put the ribbon round the bear's neck with an equal length on each side. Pass the left end over the right end and back under. Make a loop with the left end, take the right end round behind the loop previously made, over your left second finger in an anti-clockwise direction. With your left thumb push the ribbon through the loop made by your finger. Carefully pull the two loops to form a bow which will have both the ribbon ends pointing downwards.



Pinched Bow

This is used if the ribbon is too wide to go round the bear's neck. Thread a needle with the same colour thread as the ribbon and knot the ends together. Take a 6in (15cm) length of ribbon and loop the ends to form a bow shape. Take your threaded needle round the cross-over point several times and pull tight. Secure well and leave the needle and thread attached. Position the bow on the bear's neck, then wrap the thread round the neck. Finish the thread by sewing into the centre of the bow. Trim off the thread ends.

Finishing Ribbon Bows

To prevent the ribbon fraying, fold each end in half lengthways and use very sharp scissors to cut across the ribbon at a slant, pointing down towards the fold. When opened out, the end of the ribbon will have a V-shape. Alternatively, do not fold the ribbon but just trim the ends diagonally (see diagram above).

BEATRICE BEAR

'There's no such thing as a bad bear. There are ugly bears and poorly made bears, but each is capable of bringing a smile to someone's face, a sense of fun or comfort.'

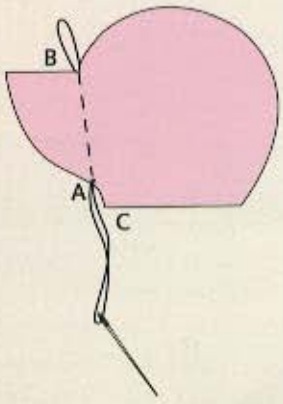
MAC POHLEN

Beatrice shows how using a different fabric and working a little thread sculpture can completely change the look of a bear. She is approximately 3¼in (9.5cm) tall and is made using the same pattern as Bartholomew but with a bow on her head and ruffled collar to give her that feminine touch. Try experimenting with other fabrics too to see what other bears you can create from the same pattern.

FINISHED SIZE
3¼IN (9.5CM)

Making Beatrice

Using soft pink upholstery fabric, make Beatrice in the same way as Bartholomew. When Beatrice is finished you can thread sculpt the face to emphasize the muzzle and mould the head – this personalises your bear. It is done by working from side to side, through the nose. Take a double length of matching thread with a knot in the end. Insert under the chin at A and 'pop' the knot through into the head. Bring the needle out just below one of the eyes at B. Taking a very tiny stitch, insert the needle again and bring it out just next to your starting point at C, as shown. Gently pull tight. Take a tiny stitch and come out on the opposite side of the muzzle, just next to your first stitch. Gently pull tight and you will see the nose pulling in. Continue stitching in this manner until you have worked all round the muzzle.



Making the ruffled collar

Take a length of narrow lace or ribbon approximately 8in (20cm) long and use a double length of nylon monofil thread knotted at the end to attach small beads. Starting with a new length of thread with the ends knotted together, begin at one end with a double stitch and work a running stitch down one long edge of the lace or ribbon. When you reach the end, gently pull the thread to gather up the lace or ribbon; your stitches will disappear. Put the collar round the bear's neck and secure with a double stitch.

BASIC BEAR NUMBER SIX

SAD OLD HARRY

'A bear grows more alive with age. No-one with one ounce of sensitivity could ever consign a bear to the dustbin.'

JOHNNIE HAGUE

Sad Old Harry is a very old bear who has had a hard life. He stands 4in (10cm) high and features the long narrow limbs characteristic of the early teddy bears. To give him a worn look he is made from stone-coloured ⅜ in (1cm) sparse pile mohair. This mohair frays badly and as the limbs are quite narrow, it is important to treat it to prevent fraying Fray Check crystals are the best option but you could use PVA glue or clear nail varnish (see Velvet, page 6).

FINISHED SIZE
4IN (10CM)

Harry is made in the same way as Bartholomew (page 12) using the pattern on page 22, but his face is sculpted before his eyes are inserted which can quite change the look of a bear. This technique can be applied to any bear. Harry's ear patterns are slightly different. Simply fold them in half lengthways then continue as for Bartholomew's ears.

You will need

- 9 x 6in (23 x 15cm) piece of ⅜in (1cm) pile sparse mohair fabric
- Matching ultra suede for paws and pads
- General-purpose sewing thread to match the mohair
- Extra-strong nylon thread for jointing
- Black stranded embroidery thread for the nose
- Polyester filling
- Darning and fine sharp needles
- Pair of tiny (2mm) matching black seed beads or bear eyes
- One ¼in (6mm) fibreboard cotter pin joint
- Narrow ribbon for trimming Harry

Making Harry

Trace the pattern pieces for Sad Old Harry from page 22 and use them to make card templates (see page 9). Transfer the paws and pads onto a single layer of ultra suede and cut out, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each piece. Transfer the remaining pieces onto the wrong side of a single layer of mohair fabric with the arrow on the pattern pointing in the direction of the fabric pile. Cut out the pieces, adding an ¼in (3mm) seam allowance around each one. Make the bear following the instructions below, using backstitch for seams and ladder stitch for closing seams (see page 10).

1 *Starting the bear* Join the body pieces, make and attach the foot pads to the legs and prepare the head in the same way as for Bartholomew, steps 1-7 (pages 13-14). As the limbs are quite long and narrow a pair of forceps will be very helpful for turning (see the tip on page 32 for further details).

2 *Sculpting the face* Before inserting the eyes, thread sculpt the face as follows. Using a long length of strong nylon thread with a knot at the end, insert the needle at the head opening and bring it out near to

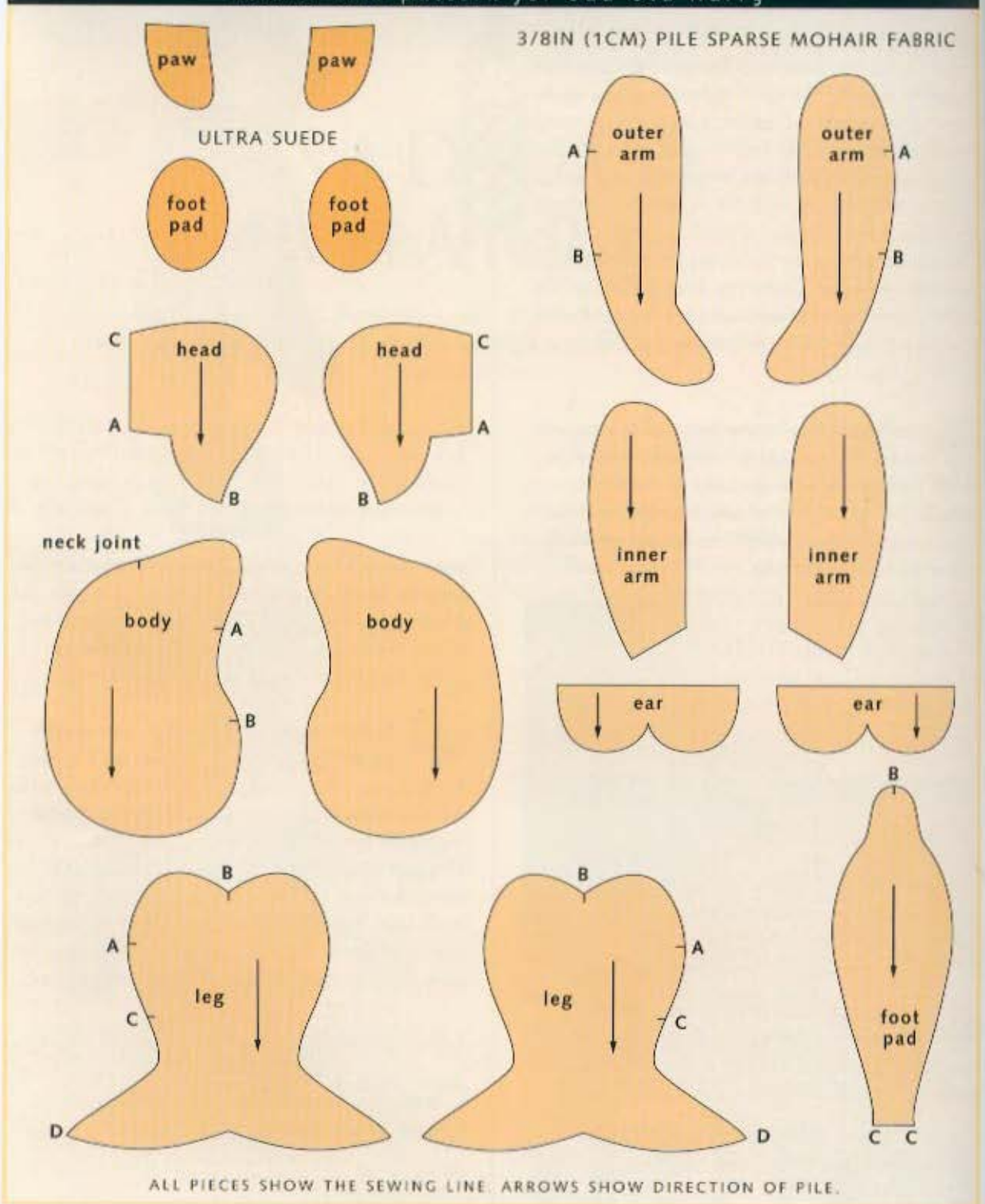
where one of the eyes will be. Take a small stitch and then bring the needle out at the opening of the head again. Pull the thread tight and repeat several times in the same area to form the eye socket. Do the same for the other eye socket and finish off the thread at the head opening.

3 *Completing the bear* Attach the eyes following the instructions for Bartholomew, step 8 on page 16. Be sure to pull the thread very tight before tying off so the eyes will bed in the eye sockets just formed. Continue making the bear in the same way as Bartholomew, steps 9-13 (pages 16-17). Before stitching his nose, trim off all the hair on the nose, working in a circle and going as far back as the eyes – this gives him a careworn look. Sew his nose and mouth and tie a ribbon round his neck to finish in the same way as for Bartholomew, steps 14-16 (page 17-18).

TIP – Long-pile mohair

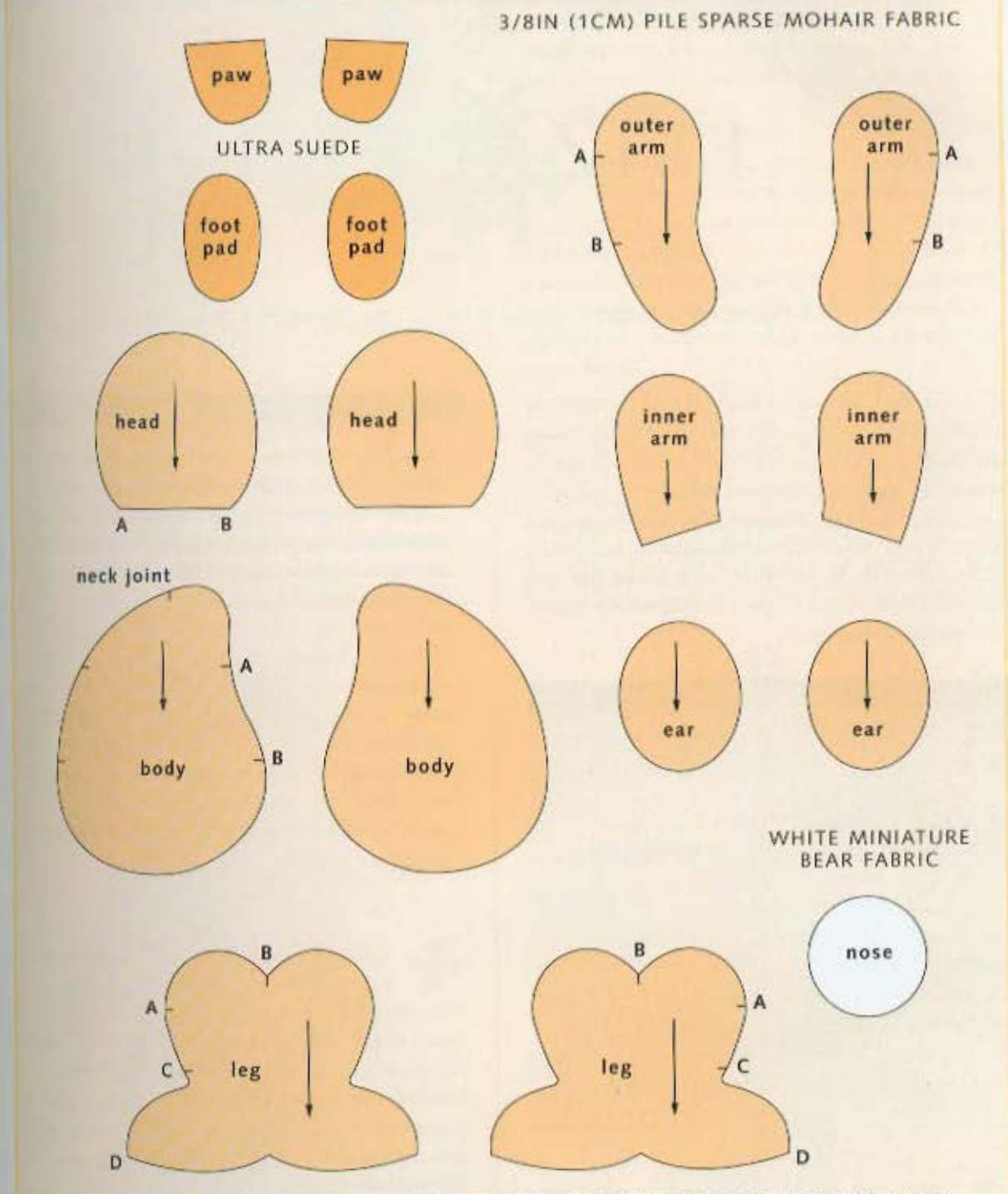
When using long-pile mohair you can obtain a better finish by tucking the pile out of the way of the seam with your needle as you stitch.

Actual-size pattern for Sad Old Harry



ALL PIECES SHOW THE SEWING LINE. ARROWS SHOW DIRECTION OF PILE.

Actual-size pattern for Elizabeth



ALL PIECES EXCEPT THE NOSE SHOW THE SEWING LINE. THE NOSE SHOWS THE CUTTING LINE. ARROWS SHOW DIRECTION OF PILE.

BASIC BEAR NUMBER EIGHT

ELIZABETH

'A bedroom without a teddy is like a face without a smile.'

GILL DAVIES

With her 'pop-on' nose, Elizabeth looks completely different from bears made using the head gusset construction, such as Bartholomew, and the contrasting nose fabric makes an appealing feature.

Elizabeth is 3 ¼in (8cm) tall. She is made from soft honey brown upholstery fabric with a contrasting white nose fabric, although you could use any miniature bear fabric of your choice or any colour combination (see page 6).

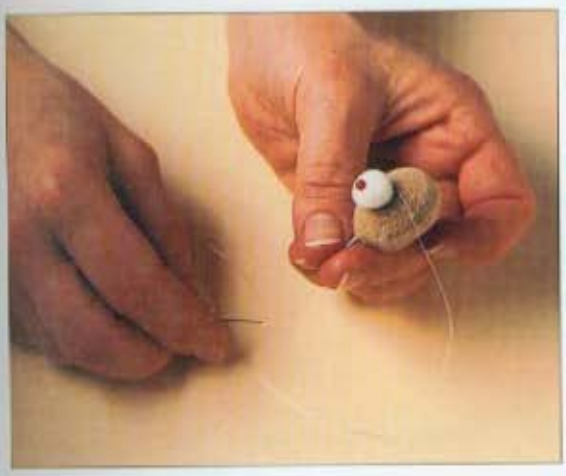
You will need

- 6 x 9in (15 x 23cm) piece miniature bear fabric
- 1in (2.5cm) square of soft white miniature bear fabric for the nose
- Matching ultra suede for paws and pads
- General-purpose sewing thread to match the main fabric
- Extra-strong white nylon thread
- Black stranded embroidery thread for the nose
- Darning and fine sharp needles
- Polyester filling; ribbon for trimming
- Pair of tiny (2mm) matching black beads or bear eyes
- One ¼in (6mm) fibreboard cotter pin joint

Making Elizabeth

Trace the pattern pieces for Elizabeth from page 23 and use them to make card templates (see page 9). Transfer the paws and pads onto a single layer of ultra suede and cut out, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each piece. Transfer the nose onto the wrong side of the white bear fabric and cut out without adding a seam allowance (this is already included). Transfer the remaining pieces onto the wrong side of a single layer of bear fabric with the arrow on the pattern pointing in the direction of the fabric pile. Cut out the pieces, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each one. Make the bear following the instructions below, using backstitch for seams and ladder stitch for closing seams (see page 10).

1 *Starting the bear* Join the body pieces and make the arms and legs in the same way as for Bartholomew, steps 1-4 (page 13-14). Now make the head. Place the two head pieces together with right sides facing and use a double length of matching thread to backstitch from A right round the curved top and sides to B, leaving the straight edge open. Turn the head right sides out and stuff firmly, moulding the head into a round ball shape rather than a flat piece. Gently brush the fabric along the seam with a teasel brush to fluff up the pile and disguise the seam.



2 *Making the nose* Using extra-strong white nylon thread with a knot in the end work a small running stitch around the nose approximately ¼in (3mm) from the edge (do not mark the stitching line as this could dirty the fabric). Gently pull the thread to gather in the sides and insert a small amount of stuffing. Pull the thread tight and secure but do not cut the needle and thread off. You should now have a small ball which is ready to be attached to the head. Pin the nose on the head with the gathered side towards the head. The nose should be positioned not quite centrally but slightly lower, as shown. Ladder stitch in position, pulling the stitches tight so the nose blends in and looks part of the head, not just stuck on as an afterthought.

3 *Completing the bear* Continue making the bear in the same was as Bartholomew, stuffing the limbs as in step 7 (page 14) and adding the eyes and ears as in steps 8 and 9 (page 16). There is no head gusset to use as a guide to locating the eyes and ears. Use your judgement to position the eyes and place the ears on the head seam. Complete the bear following steps 10-16 for Bartholomew (pages 16-18).

TIP – Teddy tacks

If pins get in the way, sew one or two large stitches to hold the pieces together. Then just pull them out when you have finished.

FINISHED SIZE
3½IN (8CM)

GEORGE

'In a world where everyone seems to be larger and louder than yourself, it is very comforting to have a small, quiet companion.'

PETER GRAY

George is a slender, long-bodied bear from South Africa with a large oval nose and perky ears. He is made from long-pile miniature bear fabric with matching ultra suede pads and he wears a distinctive beaded star necklace. Like Bartholomew he can turn his head and move his arms and legs.

George was created by Wendy and Megan Chamberlain of Essential Bears, 20 Belmont Road, Mowbray, 7700 Cape Town, South Africa. A mother and daughter team, Wendy and Megan have been making bears full time since 1992 when South African bear artists were totally isolated from the bear-making world. Their earliest bears were made from a variety of fabrics, including old coats obtained from second-hand shops. They have developed their own distinctive style and as they do all their own work, they prefer to create one-of-a-kind bears or limited editions. Their annual output is only about 200-250 bears each.

FINISHED SIZE
3IN (7.5CM)

You will need

For the bear

- 9 x 6in (23 x 15cm) piece of miniature bear fabric (pale chestnut long-pile American upholstery fabric)
- Matching ultra suede for paws and pads
- General-purpose sewing thread to match the bear fabric
- Black extra-strong nylon thread for attaching the eyes
- Extra-strong nylon thread for jointing
- Black stranded embroidery thread for the nose
- Darning and fine sharp needles
- Polyester filling
- Pair of tiny (2mm) matching black beads for the eyes
- One ¼in (6mm) fibreboard cotter pin joint

For the trimmings

- Narrow ribbon in light blue
- Eight small gold/silver coloured beads
- Small star for the pendant
- 2in (5cm) of dark blue ultra suede ⅛in (4mm) wide

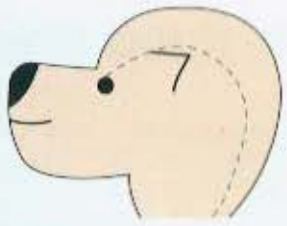
Making George

Trace the pattern pieces for George from page 28 and use them to make card templates (see page 9). Transfer the paws and pads onto a single layer of ultra suede and cut out, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each piece. Transfer the remaining pieces onto the wrong side of a single layer of miniature bear fabric with the arrow on the pattern pointing in the direction of the fabric pile. Cut out the pieces, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each one. Make the bear following the instructions below, using backstitch for seams and ladder stitch for closing seams (see page 10).

1 *Making the body and arms* Join the body pieces and make the arms in the same way as for Bartholomew, steps 1-2 (page 13).

2 *Making the legs* Pin the leg pieces together in pairs with right sides facing and backstitch from A up round the top of the leg to B; finish off the thread. Sew from C to D and leave the thread attached. Attach the foot pads as for Bartholomew, step 4 (page 14). Then make the head, stuff the head and limbs and add the eyes as for Bartholomew, steps 5-8 (pages 14-16).

3 *Making the ears* Place two ear pieces together with right sides facing and backstitch from A round to B, leaving the straight edge open and your thread still attached. Turn the ear right sides out and ladder stitch across the opening, still leaving your thread attached. To attach the ear to the head, insert your needle at the side of the head gusset and ladder stitch the ear in position, turning the ear to point downwards after taking a few stitches. Stitch down the front of the ear first and then finish by stitching up the back of the ear. Repeat to make and attach the other ear.

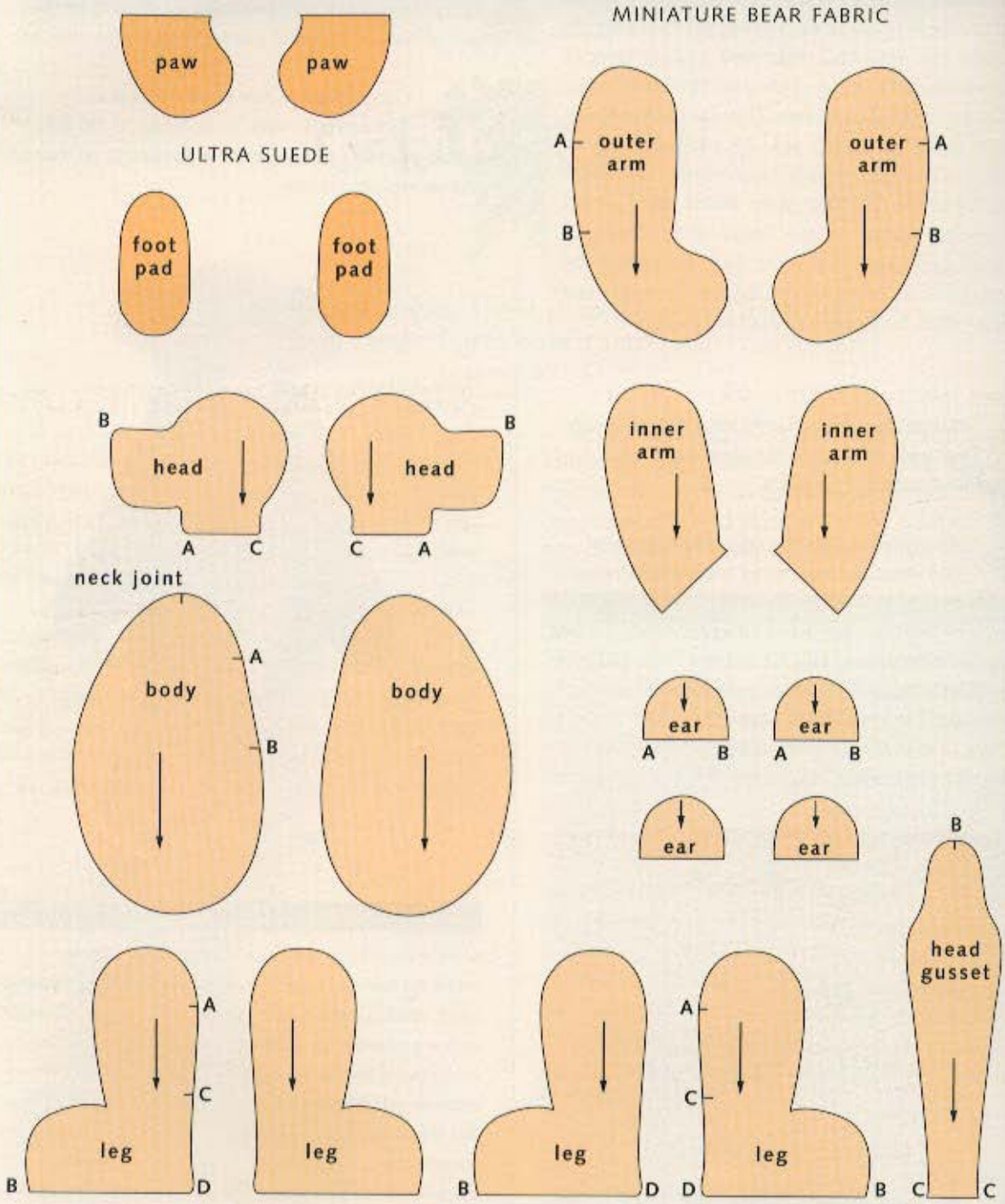


4 *Completing the bear* Finish the bear as for Bartholomew, steps 10-16 (page 16-18) but instead of adding a bow make the pendant to go round his neck as explained below.

Trimming George

Mark the centre of the piece of ultra suede. Using matching sewing thread attach the silk ribbon by forming loops, stitching down each loop individually and alternating with a gold bead threaded onto the silk ribbon. At the centre point thread the hanging star onto the ribbon and stitch down. Take care not to pull the stitches too tight as this will cause the collar to gather up. When the collar fits comfortably around George's neck (ensuring the star is in the centre), cut the ultra suede to fit and either stitch or glue the ends together. Form a further loop with the light blue ribbon to cover the join and finish off.

Actual-size pattern for George



ALL PIECES SHOW THE SEWING LINE. ARROWS SHOW DIRECTION OF PILE.

BASIC BEAR NUMBER TEN

THOMAS

'A bear knows all your secrets and keeps schtum.'

ROSANNE AMBROSE BROWN

Thomas, who is 2½in (6.5cm) tall, is constructed in basically the same way as Bartholomew, but his limbs are thread jointed in a slightly different way and positioned at a slight angle for a pin-toed look. Another difference is that Thomas does not have paw pads and his eye sockets have been thread sculpted before attaching the eyes for real character and attitude.

Thomas was created by Richard Van Aalst of Richland Bears, Hooiersweide 85, 3437 DS Nieuwegein, Holland. Richard stresses the importance of a perfect finish and is keen to point out that his bears have to look like teddy bears, including the hump at the back. Richard's sense of humour is often revealed in his distinctive bear designs.

You will need

- 6 x 5in (15 x 13cm) of miniature bear fabric (American upholstery fabric or soft upholstery fabric)
- Matching ultra suede for the pads
- Matching general-purpose sewing thread
- Extra-strong nylon thread for jointing
- Black stranded embroidery thread for the nose
- Darning and fine sharp needles
- Polyester filling
- Pair of tiny (2mm) matching black beads or bear eyes
- One ¼in (6mm) fibreboard cotter pin joint

Making Thomas

Trace the pattern pieces for Thomas from page 30 and use them to make card templates (see page 9). Transfer the foot pads onto a single layer of ultra suede and cut out, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each piece. Transfer the remaining pieces onto the wrong side of a single layer of miniature bear fabric with the arrow on the pattern pointing in the direction of the fabric pile. Cut out the pieces, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each one. Make the bear following the instructions overleaf, using backstitch for seams and ladder stitch for closing seams (see page 10).

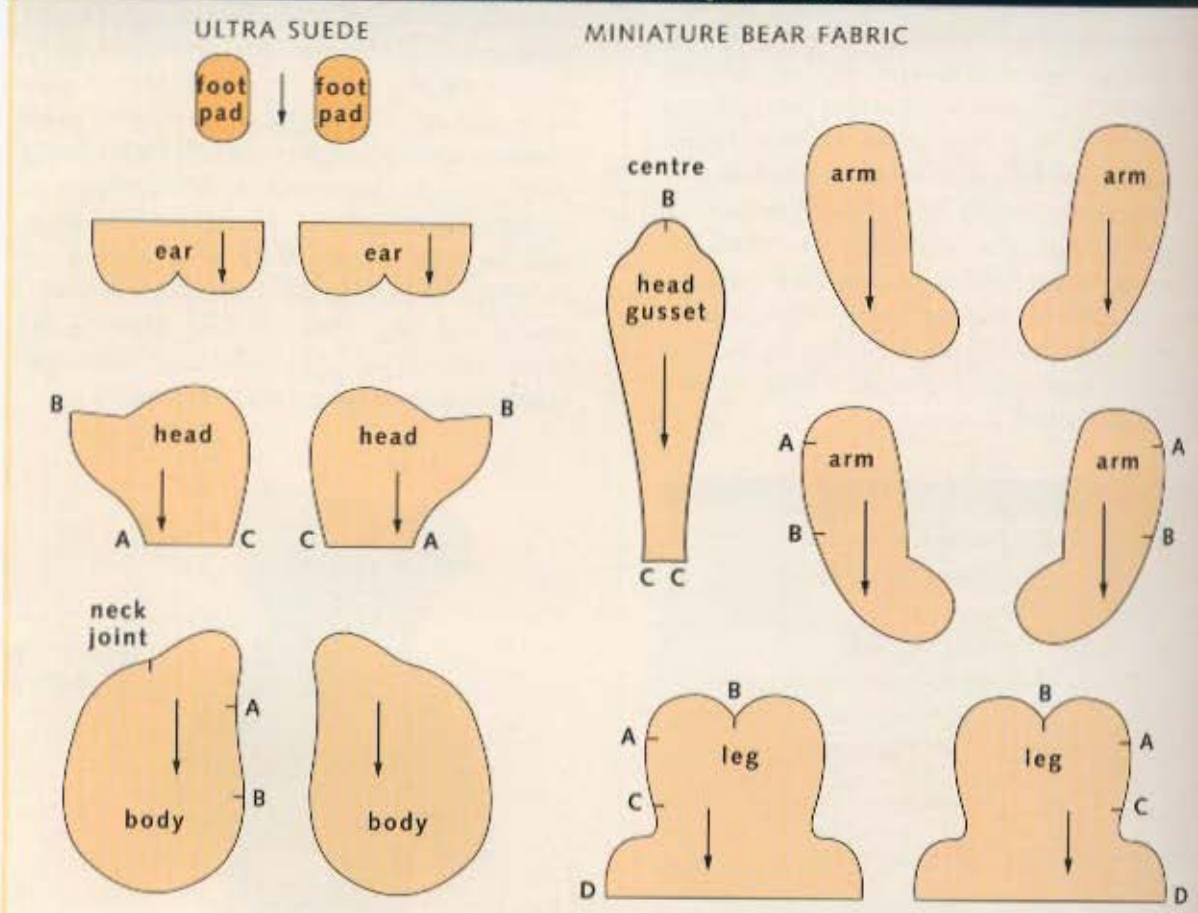
FINISHED SIZE
2½IN (6.5CM)

1 *Starting the bear* Join the body pieces and make the limbs and head following the instructions for Bartholomew, steps 1-7 (pages 13-14). Note that there are no paws to attach – the inner arm and outer arm are the same.

2 *Sculpting the face* Before inserting the eyes, thread sculpt the eye sockets following the instructions for Harry in step 2 (page 21). Now continue following the instructions for Bartholomew, steps 8-11 (page 16) until it is time to thread joint the limbs.

3 *Positioning the legs* When positioning the legs, make Thomas look pin-toed by inserting the pin through one leg and going across at an angle, as shown. Repeat with the other leg.

Actual-size pattern for Thomas



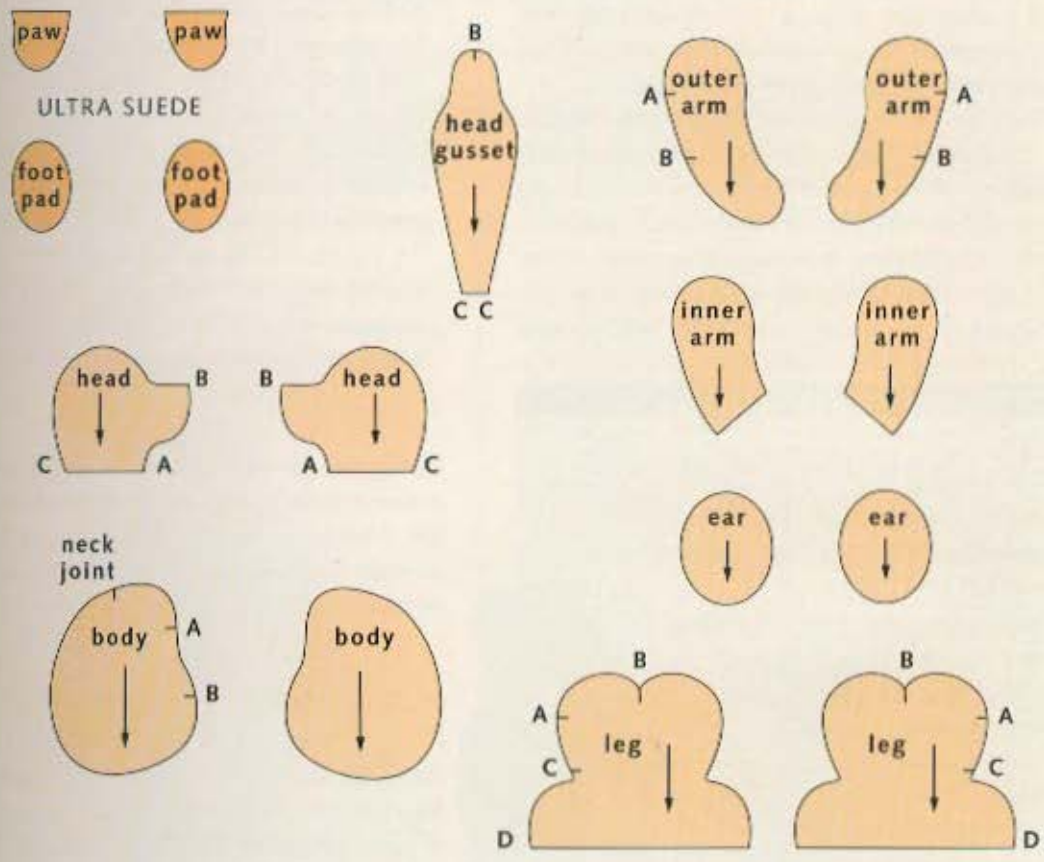
ALL PIECES SHOW THE SEWING LINE. ARROWS SHOW DIRECTION OF PILE.

4 *Thread jointing the limbs* Thread the needle with a long length of extra-strong nylon thread and, with the bear facing you, remove the pin in the right leg and insert the needle in its place. Take the needle through the body and left leg, coming out at the side of the left leg at the position of the other pin. Do not pull the thread through completely – leave 4-6in (10-15cm) at the right leg. Put the needle back in the same hole and take the needle back through the left leg, body and right leg. Check the thread is free running and that you have not caught the original thread on your return journey and then take your needle back through the right leg, body and left leg. Repeat this procedure twice more so you finish with the needle coming out of the left leg. Remove the needle and pull the two threads, (one coming out of each leg) very tightly. This should draw the legs tightly into the body. Thread your needle onto one of the threads and run it through the leg and back into the body to lose the thread; cut off the end. Repeat with the other thread.

5 *Completing the bear* Add the nose and mouth following the instructions for Bartholomew, steps 14-15 (page 17-18). Finish with a ribbon neck band and medallion, if required.

Actual-size pattern for Baby Bear

UPHOLSTERY FABRIC WITHOUT A PILE



ALL PIECES SHOW THE SEWING LINE. ARROWS SHOW DIRECTION OF GRAIN.

BABY BEAR

What is said to be the world's smallest teddy bear is just ½in (12mm) tall and was made by Hanne Schramm in Schnaittach, near Nuremberg, Germany.

This cute little bear is 1¾in (4.5cm) tall and the smallest bear in the book, yet he is fully jointed using a cotter pin joint for the head and thread joints for the limbs. He will even intrigue people who are not normally bear lovers. Despite his size, you do not lose any of the detail – he even has ultra suede paws and pads.

Baby Bear is actually quite quick to sew because he is so small but turning the limbs does take a little extra time and care – you'll find bear forceps help enormously (see the tip below right). Ideally, use fabric without a pile which does not fray. If you want to use silk or something that does fray, treat it first (see Velvet, page 6). He is shown in two colours opposite.

You will need

- 6 x 5in (15 x 13cm) piece of upholstery fabric without a pile
- Matching ultra suede for paws and pads
- General-purpose sewing thread to match your main fabric
- Extra-strong nylon thread for jointing
- Black stranded embroidery thread for the nose
- Darning and fine sharp needles
- Polyester filling
- Pair of matching black seed beads for eyes
- One ¼in (6mm) metal cotter pin joint (finer than a fibreboard cotter pin joint)
- Narrow ribbon for trimming your bear

Making Baby Bear

Trace the pattern pieces for Baby Bear from page 31 and use them to make card templates (see page 9). Transfer the paws and pads onto a single layer of ultra suede and cut out, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each piece. Transfer the remaining pieces onto the wrong side of a single layer of upholstery fabric with the arrow on the pattern pointing in the direction of the fabric grain. Cut out the pieces, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each one. Make the bear following the instructions below, using backstitch for seams and ladder stitch for closing seams (see page 10).

Making the bear Make Baby Bear in exactly the same way as Bartholomew (pages 13-18). As the limbs are so small a pair of forceps will be very helpful for turning them right sides out. Turn them out carefully to avoid pulling the pile off the fabric, as explained in the tip below.

TIP – Using bear forceps

When turning the arms, turn the top part first and the paw will then follow through. For the legs, again turn the top part first and the foot will follow through. This avoids the possibility of pulling the pile off the fabric.

BASIC BEAR NUMBER SEVEN

WALTER

'When everyone else has let you down, there's always Ted.'

CLARA ORTEGA

Walter is a bear with real character. He measures 3in (7.5cm) tall with a long nose and inner ears made from contrasting fabric which make him look quite different from the other bears.

Walter is made from a light beige distressed upholstery fabric which does not fray at all and is quite fine – a pleasure to work with. His nose and inner ears are made from a slightly lighter colour and match the ultra suede on his paws.

You will need

- 6in (15cm) square of light beige distressed upholstery fabric
- Contrasting fabric for the nose and inner ears
- Ultra suede for paws and pads to match the nose and inner ear fabric
- General-purpose sewing thread to match the main fabric
- Extra-strong nylon thread for jointing
- Black stranded embroidery thread for the nose
- Darning and fine sharp needles
- Polyester filling
- Pair of tiny (2mm) matching black beads or bear eyes
- One ¼in (6mm) fibreboard cotter pin joint
- Narrow ribbon for trimming the bear

WALTER
FINISHED SIZE
3IN (7.5CM)

BABY BEAR
IN TWO COLOUR
CHOICES
FINISHED SIZE
1½IN (4.5CM)

Making Walter

Trace the pattern pieces for Walter from page 35and use them to make card templates (see page 9). Transfer the paws and pads onto a single layer of ultra suede and cut out, adding an ¼in (3mm) seam allowance around each piece. Transfer the nose and inner ear pieces onto the wrong side of the contrasting fabric. Transfer the remaining pieces onto the wrong side of a single layer of miniature bear fabric with the arrow on the pattern pointing in the direction of the fabric pile. Cut out the pieces, adding an ¼in (3mm) seam allowance around each one. Make the bear following the instructions below, using backstitch for seams and ladder stitch for closing seams (see page 10).

Starting the bear Join the body pieces and make the limbs in the same way as for Bartholomew, steps 1-4 (pages 13-14). Then make the head. Match a head piece to the head gusset with right sides facing and backstitch from A to B. Attach the other head piece to the other side of the head gusset in the same manner. Fold the nose piece in half and line up with the centre mark on the head gusset. With right sides together stitch from the centre of the nose to C. Return to the centre and stitch to D. Then sew from the tip of the nose to E at the edge of the head. Turn right sides out and stuff firmly, starting with the nose. Stuff the limbs firmly too.

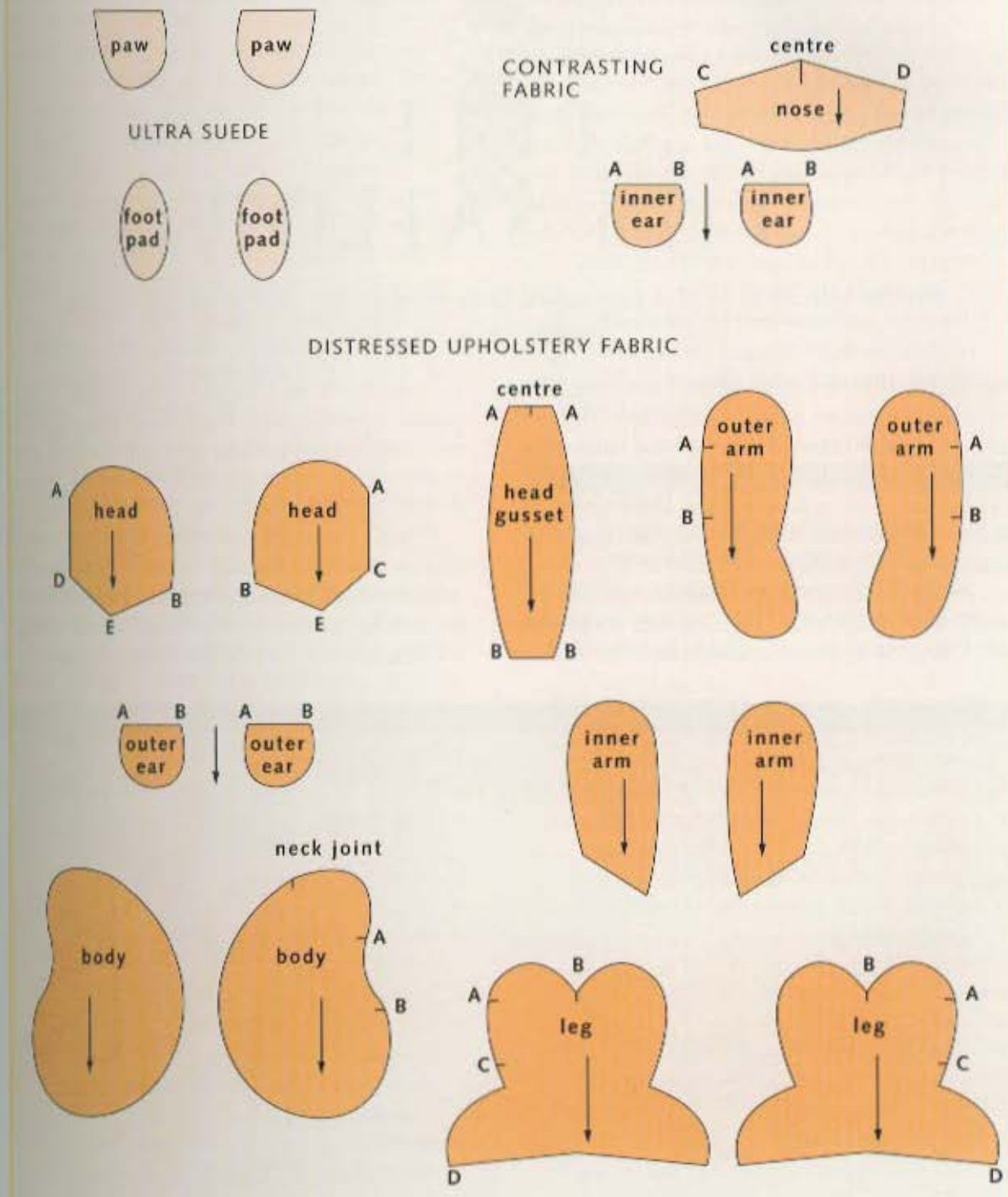
Completing the head Position the eyes on the head directly in front of each gusset seam and attach following the instructions for Bartholomew, step 8 (page 16). To assemble the ears, match one inner ear to each outer ear with right sides together and sew from A to B. Turn right sides out and ladder stitch the opening to close it.

Completing the bear Attach the ears and continue to sew the rest of Walter following the instructions given for Bartholomew, embroidering the nose and mouth with one strand of black embroidery cotton. Finish with a bow.

TIP – Square top of the leg

If the top of your bear's legs have turned out square, use a length of matching thread to thread sculpt them into shape. Knot the end and 'pop' the knot into the leg, bringing the needle out at the problem area. Take a small stitch and go back into the leg, bringing the needle out well down the back of the leg. Repeat, if necessary, then finish off the thread in the usual way.

Actual-size pattern for Walter



ALL PIECES SHOW THE SEWING LINE. ARROWS SHOW DIRECTION OF PILE.

PETE THE SAILOR

On the 14th April 1912 a bear called Gatti survived the sinking of RMS Titanic.

Pete the Sailor is 2¼in (6cm) tall and very cute. He's made from upholstery fabric, appropriately coloured navy blue, and he sports a colourful naval outfit. He's filled with fine glass beads to give him extra weight, so it's necessary to use cotter pin joints. If you decide to fill him with polyester filling instead, you can thread joint him in the usual way.

Pete is made by Sarah Misserian, Bearahs by Sarah, 1837 Badger Pass Way, Antioch, California 94509, USA. Sarah started making bears in 1990 when she wanted to make some for her mother who had just started collecting them. Sarah really enjoys creating each little bear and watching as their personalities come to life and now makes over 50 different bears, ranging in size from 1¼in (3cm) to 3in (7.5cm).

Sarah works with upholstery fabric and mohair and her bears are all fully jointed. Sarah has had surgery on her left arm and hand and consequently has adjusted her patterns so they can be partially sewn on a sewing machine – you may find this helps you too.

You will need

For the bear

- 6 x 5in (15 x 13cm) piece of navy-blue upholstery fabric
- 4 x 2in (10 x 5cm) piece of stone-coloured upholstery fabric
- Matching stone-coloured ultra suede for paws
- General-purpose sewing thread to match both upholstery fabrics
- Extra-strong nylon thread for jointing
- Black stranded embroidery thread for the nose
- Darning and fine sharp needles
- Fine glass bead filling
- Pair of matching black seed beads for eyes
- Five short cotter pins
- Four ⅛in (3mm) plastic discs (see step 2)
- Seven ¼in (6mm) plastic discs (see step 2)
- Stiletto

For the trimmings

- Scrap of red and white print fabric for the collar
- Scrap of white fabric for the collar insert (such as interfacing)
- Blue felt or fabric
- Scrap of blue fabric
- Narrow braid for edging the costume in white and red (Bunka)
- Small white pompon
- ⅛in (1cm) square of origami paper for the pinwheel
- Florist's wire
- Two blue seed beads
- Instant-bonding adhesive
- Craft knife and cutting mat

Making Pete

Trace the pattern pieces for Pete from page 38 and use them to make card templates (see page 9). Transfer one pair of paws onto a single layer of ultra suede and cut out, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each piece. Transfer the head, head gusset, ears and another pair of paws onto the wrong side of a single layer of stone-coloured upholstery fabric with the arrow on the pattern pointing in the direction of the fabric pile. Transfer the remaining pieces onto the wrong side of a single layer of navy-blue fabric. Cut out the pieces, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each one. Make the bear following the instructions below, using backstitch for seams and ladder stitch for closing seams (see page 10).

1 *Starting the bear* Join the body pieces in the same way as for Bartholomew, step 1 (page 13). Join the straight edge of each inner arm piece to a corresponding ultra suede paw and join each outer arm piece to a stone-coloured upholstery fabric paw. Then assemble the arms as for Bartholomew, step 2 and make the legs as in step 3. Pete's feet do not have any foot pads so just sew from A to B and turn right sides out. Do not stuff the limbs yet.

FINISHED SIZE
2½IN (6CM)

2 *Making the joints* Follow steps 5-11 for Bartholomew (pages 14-16) to make and attach the head, but do not stuff the limbs. For the joints Sarah uses a hole punch to make the correct-size disks from plastic and then uses a needle to make the hole in them for the cotter pin to go through. She uses two ⅛in (3mm) discs inside the head to give extra strength and one ⅛in (3mm) disc inside each arm. To go inside the legs and body she uses ¼in (6mm) discs. Bend a short length of wire in half to make a cotter pin (the excess wire trimmed from a pair of glass eyes is ideal). For full instructions on using cotter pin joints see Bottlebrush Blossom Bear, step 5 on page 43.

3 *Completing the bear* Follow steps 14-16 for Bartholomew (pages 17-18) to add the bear's nose and mouth. Stuff the bear and close the gaps with ladder stitch (see page 10).

Trimming Pete

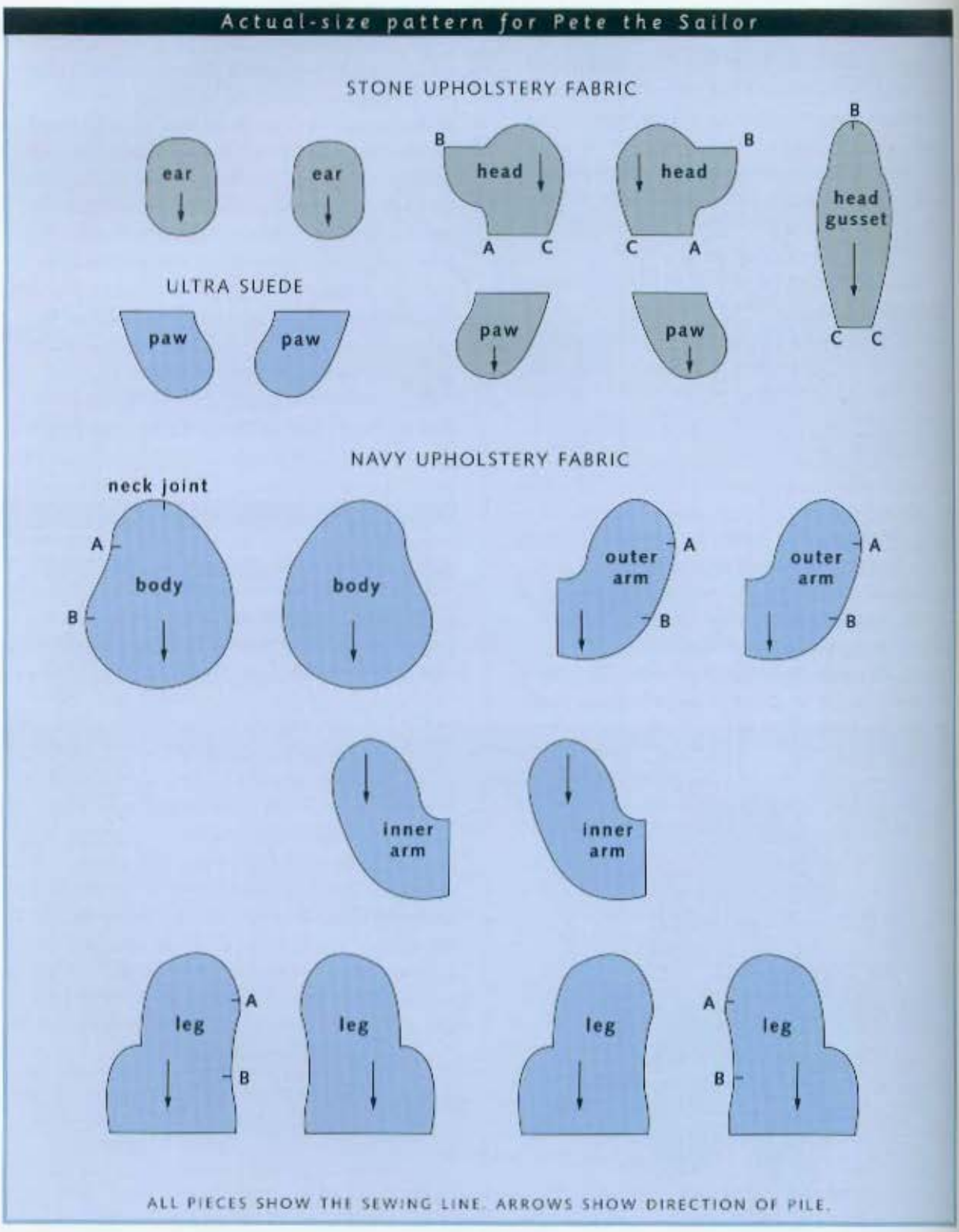
1 *Cutting out the clothing* Trace the patterns for Pete's clothes from page 39 and use them to cut out the pieces, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each one. Cut the hat in blue felt or fabric, the collar in patterned fabric and the insert in white fabric.

2 *Making the hat* Work running stitch around the edge of the circle to gather it up. Cut a thin strip of blue fabric to fit around the bear's head and stitch the ends together to form the band. Sew the top circle to the band and place on the bear's head at an angle over one ear; stitch to the head. Cut and glue a small strip of narrow white braid around the bottom of the band. Cut a piece of narrow red braid and unravel it to make a tassel. Fold it in half and glue it to the centre of the hat. Glue the small pompon over the tassel.

TIP – Stitching line

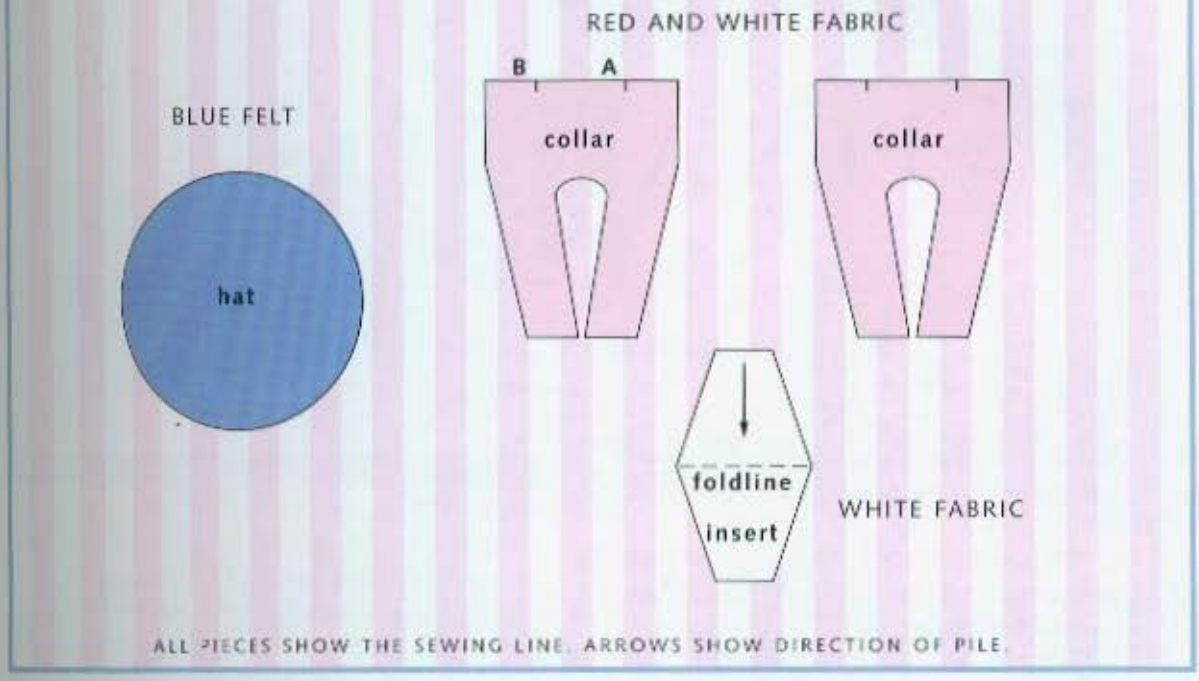
Avoid stitching pieces too close to the edge or you may find that the stitches pull away when you stuff that section – holes in seams can be difficult to repair and you may find you have to stitch a whole new piece.

Actual-size pattern for Pete the Sailor



ALL PIECES SHOW THE SEWING LINE. ARROWS SHOW DIRECTION OF PILE.

Actual-size pattern for Pete's clothes and accessories



3 *Making the collar* With right sides together back-stitch from A all the way round to B, as shown. Clip the corners and turn right sides out. Tuck the raw edges under and press. Close the opening with ladder stitch. Place the collar around Pete's neck. Fold the insert piece in half and place it on his chest. Use a dab of glue to keep it in place. The front of the collar should meet at the 'V' and cover the insert. Glue the ends together. Carefully glue a piece of narrow white braid around the outside edge of the collar, starting and ending at the back. Tuck the ends of the braid under the collar at the back. Use a dab of glue on the back of the collar to keep the collar back down. Finish Pete's arms with braid around the arms at the wrist.

4 *Making the pinwheel* On the diagonal make cuts on each corner of the origami paper, as shown, using a craft knife. Mark the centre with a pinhole. Carefully bend each corner towards the centre and glue with a dab of instant-bonding adhesive. Trim the wire to 2in (5cm). Bend the end of the wire 90 degrees and place a seed bead on the bent point, using a dab of adhesive to keep it in place. Place the pinwheel on the wire and then put another seed bead over the pinwheel and glue it in place. Trim the wire, if necessary, and sew on the paw on the opposite side to the hat.

BASIC BEAR NUMBER NINE

POLAR BEAR

'A bear is a cuddle with four paws on the end.'

GILL DAVIES

The polar bear is the only bear in this book who stands on all fours. He measures approximately 1½in (4cm) to the top of his back.

This bear is made in white upholstery fabric with matching foot pads, but you could easily turn him into a brown bear if you prefer.

FINISHED SIZE
1½IN (4CM)

You will need

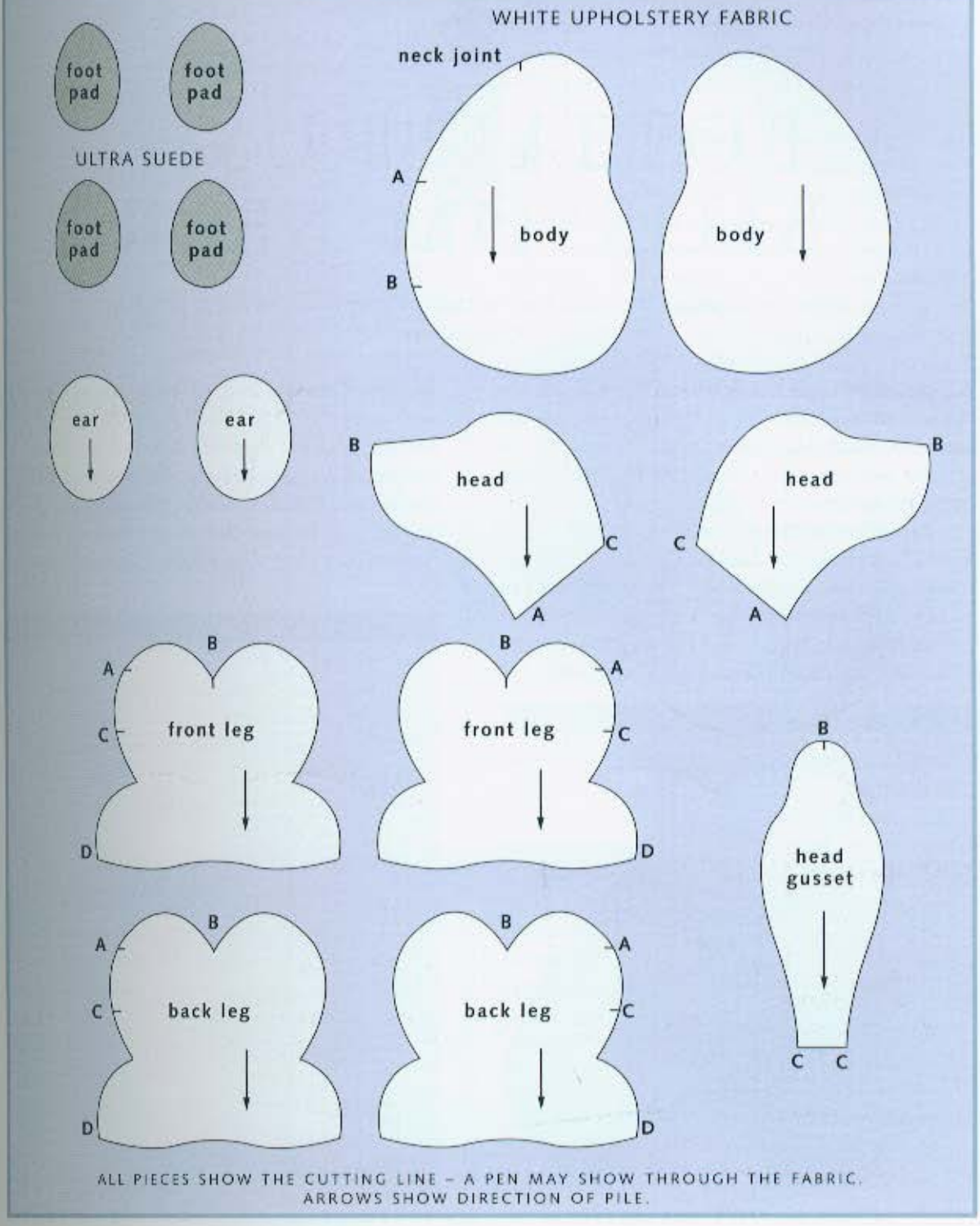
- 6 x 7½in (15 x 19cm) of white upholstery fabric
- White ultra suede for the pads
- White general-purpose sewing thread
- Extra-strong white nylon thread for jointing
- Black stranded embroidery thread for the nose
- Darning and fine sharp needles
- Polyester filling
- Pair of tiny (2mm) matching black beads or bear eyes
- One ¼in (6mm) fibreboard cotter pin joint
- Narrow ribbon for trimming the bear

Making the Polar Bear

For this bear only, the pattern pieces show the cutting line, not the stitching line, because it is possible that a pen line may show through the white fabric. Trace the pattern pieces for the bear from page 41 and use them to make card templates (see page 9). Transfer the four paw pads onto a single layer of ultra suede and cut out. Transfer the remaining pieces onto the wrong side of a single layer of bear fabric with the arrow on the pattern pointing in the direction of the fabric pile and cut them out on the line. Make the bear following the instructions below, taking an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance, using backstitch for seams and ladder stitch for closing seams (see page 10).

Making the bear Assemble the bear in the same way as Bartholomew (page 13) but note that this bear has four legs with foot pads and no arms. The front legs are slightly smaller than the back legs so keep the pattern pieces separate to avoid getting them mixed up. You will notice that the body is filled from the front so that when the polar bear is standing on all four paws the seam on his back is perfect.

Actual-size pattern for the Polar Bear



ALL PIECES SHOW THE CUTTING LINE – A PEN MAY SHOW THROUGH THE FABRIC.
ARROWS SHOW DIRECTION OF PILE.

BASIC BEAR NUMBER TEN

BOTTLEBRUSH BLOSSOM BEAR

'One of a teddy's best qualities is that he can listen without judging.'

ANONYMOUS

Bottlebrush Blossom Bear is 5in (12.5cm) tall and was designed and made by Loris Hancock, one of Australia's finest bear artists. He belongs to her wild-flower series of bears and was inspired by the Bottlebrush flower, one of Australia's most striking blooms.

Loris Hancock (Studio Seventy, Suite 370, 80 The Pines Shopping Centre, Elanora, Qld 4221, Australia) made her first bear in 1989 and before long she had become a full-time bear artist. Loris finds inspiration for her designs in nature, and her wild-flower series blends with the unique flora of the Elanora region of Australia where she lives. This series enabled Loris to experiment with the wide range of colours now available and she dyes fabrics herself to obtain the unique tones required. Loris also makes a number of life-like bears and to enable her to get the details correct, spends many hours studying books about bears in their natural habitat.

FINISHED SIZE
5IN (12.5CM)

You will need

For the bear

- 10 x 8in (26 x 20cm) piece of ⅜in (1cm) pile mauve mohair or other miniature bear fabric
- 4in (10cm) square of ivory cashmere miniature bear fabric
- General-purpose sewing thread to match the mohair
- Extra-strong nylon thread for jointing
- Variegated stranded embroidery thread for the nose
- Darning and fine sharp needles
- Polyester filling
- Pair of ⅛in (3mm) glass eyes
- Stiletto and small round-nose pliers
- Five ⅜in (10mm) cotter pin joints

For the trimmings

- 14in (35cm) shot gold/green organza ribbon 1in (2.5cm) wide
- Ten gold beads

Making Bottlebrush Blossom Bear

Trace the pattern pieces for Bottlebrush Blossom Bear from pages 44-45 and use them to make card templates (see page 9). Transfer one pair of ears, the nose, foot pads and paws onto the wrong side of a single layer of ivory cashmere miniature bear fabric with the arrow on the pattern pointing in the direction of the fabric pile. Transfer the remaining pieces onto the wrong side of a single layer of mauve mohair fabric. Transfer the dots which mark the position of the cotter pin joints to the wrong side of the fabric. Cut out the pieces, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each one. Make the bear following the instructions below, using backstitch for seams and ladder stitch for closing seams (see page 10).

1 *Starting the bear* Join the body pieces and make the limbs in the same way as for Bartholomew, steps 1-4 (pages 13-14). Stitch the head following the instructions for Walter, step 1 (page 34). Do not stuff the limbs yet.

2 *Adding the eyes* When using larger eyes which have looped backs, insert them now. With these eyes start by gently pinching the round loops together using round-nose pliers to enable them to go into the hole in the fabric. Position the eyes on the head on the miniature bear fabric directly in front of each gusset seam. Make a hole in the fabric with a stiletto and then use a long needle threaded double with strong nylon thread (or dental floss as Loris recommends) to sew the eyes onto the head as follows. Insert the needle into the head from the base of the head and bring it out through the hole, thread on an eye and take the thread through the same hole and back out through the base of the head. Repeat with the other eye. Pull firmly and knot the four thread ends together with a reef knot, then bury the thread ends in the head.

3 *Making the ears* Place a miniature bear fabric ear and a mohair ear together with right sides facing and sew from A round to B. Turn right sides out and ladder stitch the opening closed. Repeat with the other ear, then attach the ears to the head with ladder stitch.

4 *Completing the head* Continue by jointing the head following steps 10-11 for Bartholomew (page 16). Embroider the nose and mouth with a length of double embroidery thread, following steps 14-15 for Bartholomew (pages 17-18).

5 *Jointing the limbs* The method for doing this is exactly the same as for jointing the head to the body. Start by making a hole with a stiletto where the joint is marked on the inner arm and body. Insert a cotter pin with one washer into the arm cavity and then into the body cavity. Position the second washer on the cotter pin and roll back the two prongs using small round-nose pliers until the joint is firm. Continue jointing the arms and legs in this manner and then stuff the bear and finish the seams using ladder stitch.

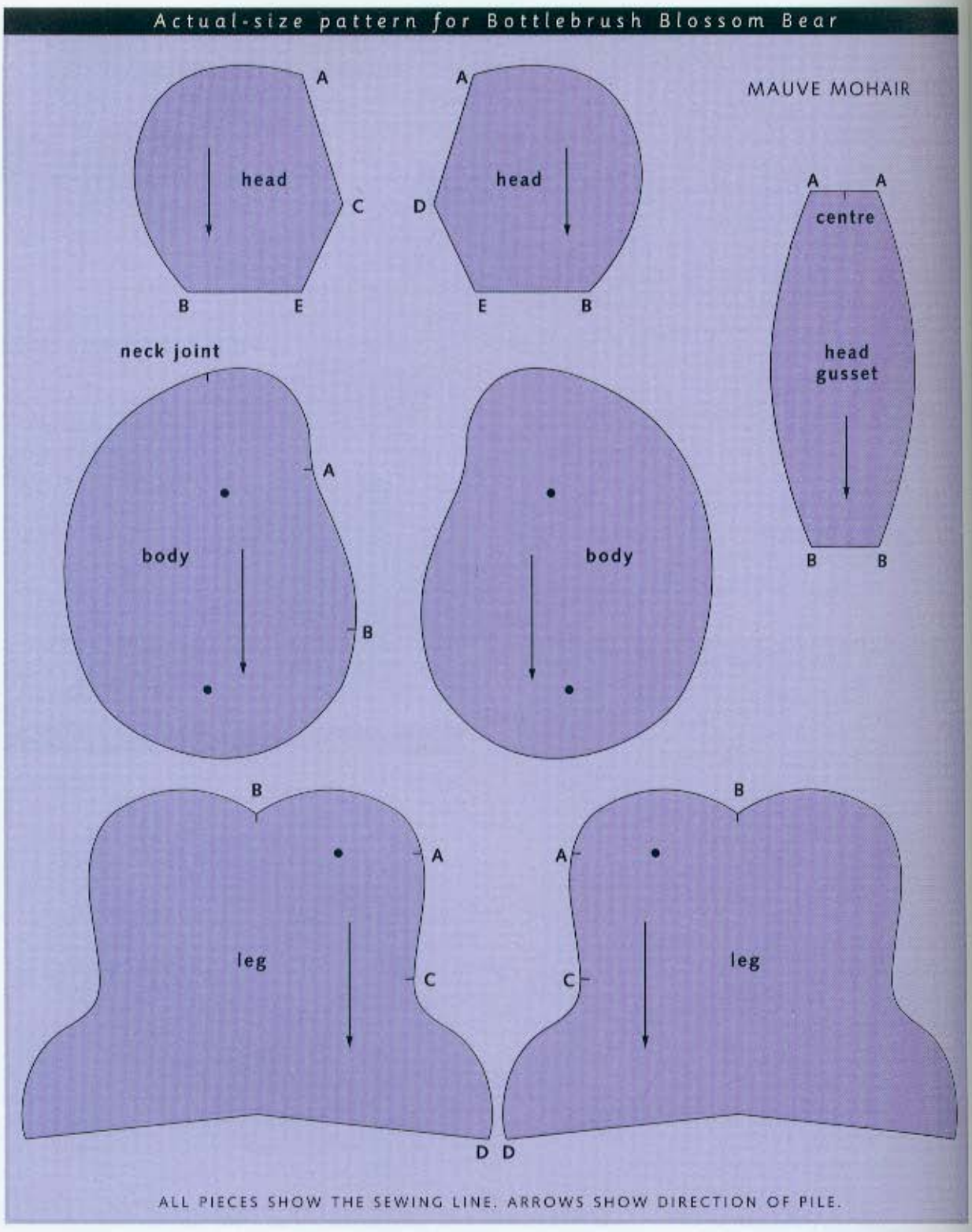
Trimming Bottlebrush Blossom Bear

Sew the ribbon around your bear's neck into approximately 2in (5cm) loops all the way around, starting at the centre back. Turn the ends under and secure at the back when complete. Using embroidery thread double and with a knot at the end, thread on a bead and secure the thread to the ribbon with the bead hanging down on a short length of embroidery thread. Repeat all the way across the front of the ribbon. The beads represent bottlebrush flower stamens and pollen.

TIP – Healthy glow

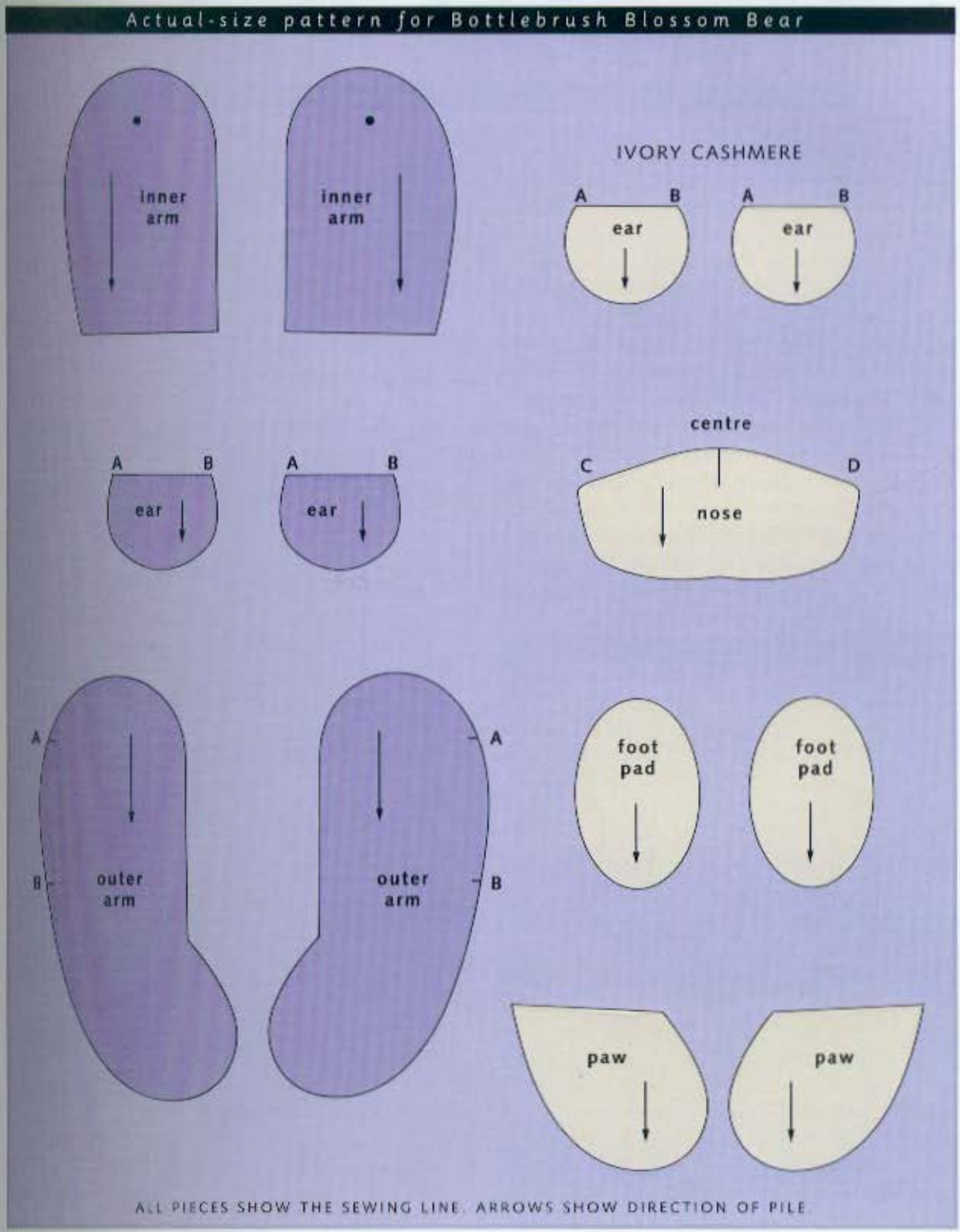
Loris, who designed this bear, rubs warmed wax onto each bear's nose after sewing it to give it a lovely healthy glow.

Actual-size pattern for Bottlebrush Blossom Bear



ALL PIECES SHOW THE SEWING LINE. ARROWS SHOW DIRECTION OF PILE.

Actual-size pattern for Bottlebrush Blossom Bear



ALL PIECES SHOW THE SEWING LINE. ARROWS SHOW DIRECTION OF PILE

BIRTHDAY BEARS

A character bear for every month of the year

Having mastered the techniques of making miniature teddy bears you can now go on to characterise your bears. On the following pages you'll find the Birthday Bear Range, a bear for every month.

When choosing fabrics for their outfits remember to use plain or small-scale designs which are in keeping with the miniature theme. Dolls' house suppliers usually have a good choice of small-print fabrics and Little Trimmings of Laindon (see Suppliers, page 95) has a wide range of small-scale lace, buttons and trimmings available.

Your bears may not look exactly the same as mine for several reasons – your choice of fabric, your sewing tension, or you may have stuffed them differently. If so, you may need to alter the clothes slightly to give a good fit.

As the clothes and accessories are so small the fabric requirements aren't given – you'll only need small pieces. A glance at the pattern will give you an idea of the fabric required. All the patterns for the clothes and accessories give the cutting line, not the sewing line, unless otherwise stated. Sew ⅛in (3mm) inside the cutting line.

Bases

Some of the scenes in this section are set on fabric-covered bases. You can easily make these yourself from mount board, fabric and cardboard as follows.

Making an oval or round base

1 *Making the main base* Cut an oval or round piece of mount board the required finished size. A cake base from a cake decorators' supplier is ideal. These come in many shapes and sizes and are usually quite reasonably priced. Cut a piece of fabric 1in (2.5cm) larger all round. Work running stitch round the edge of the fabric and then gently pull it up. Insert the mount board and pull up the gathering thread to fit neatly. Secure the gathering thread.

2 *Making the lining* Cut a piece of fine cardboard ¼in (6mm) smaller all the way round than the finished base. Cut another piece of fabric 1in (2.5cm) larger all round and use it to cover the cardboard as in step 1 but do not secure the gathering thread. Instead, press the fabric and then remove the cardboard.

3 *Positioning the pins* Insert two short pins approximately ½in (12mm) apart for each bear before adding the lining. Use an awl to make the holes in the fabric-covered board, then insert the pins from the underside, coming up through the top of the base. Your bears will stand on the pins. Place the lining on the covered board with wrong sides facing. Ladder stitch the two pieces together, leaving the mount board in position. This covers all the raw edges and makes a very neat covered base. It also stops the base wobbling because of the pinheads. Alternatively, use an oval of Fablon (self-adhesive baize) or felt to neaten the underside of the base. Stand the bear on the protruding pins which will go up his legs.

Making a square or oblong base

Make a square or oblong base in the same way as a circular one but mitre the fabric at the corners rather than gathering it up on the back.

Making a small round wooden base

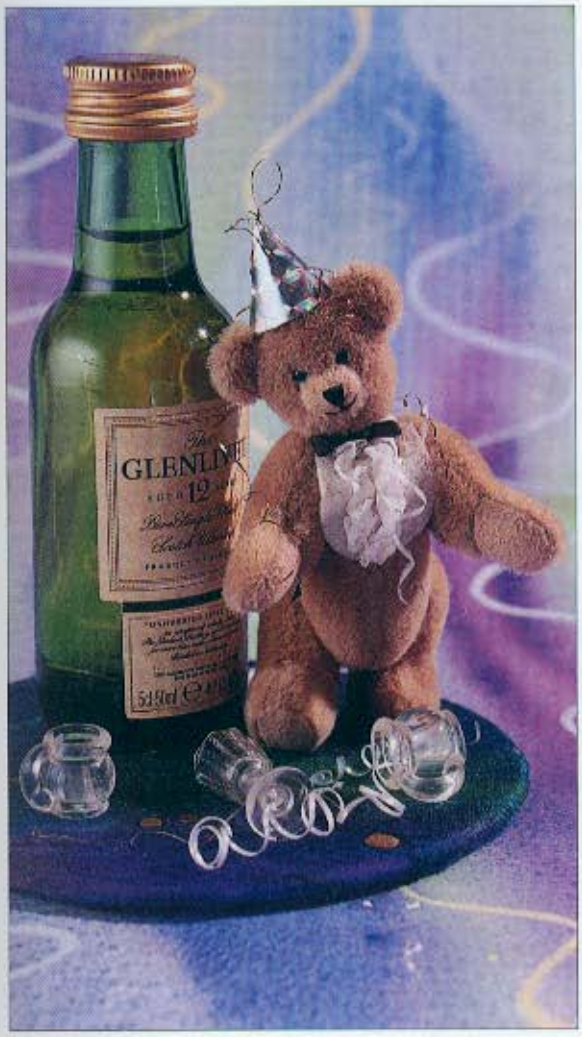
If you have a bear who is reluctant to stand, like the Jester (page 55), making a small base may be the answer. Cut a 1½in (4cm) diameter circle from ⅛in (3mm) thick plywood. Using an awl or fine drill make two holes approximately ½in (12mm) apart. Stain or varnish the wooden base and then insert two short pins from the underside, ready to stand your bear on. Cut a piece of Fablon (self-adhesive baize) to fit the underside or glue on a piece of felt. This neatens the underside and also stops the base from wobbling because of the pinheads. When it is completely dry, stand your bear on the pins which will go up his legs.

BIRTHDAY BEAR
JANUARY

NEW YEAR REVELLER

'I am a bear with very little brain, and long words bother me.'

A.A. MILNE



It's party time for this bear, and what a party. With his double neck joint, he has a wobbly head which reveals just how much he's had to drink.

The New Year Reveller is based on Elizabeth (page 24), the bear with the pop-on nose. His nose is pale to contrast with his beige body. He stands approximately 3¼in (8cm) tall.

You will need

For the bear

- 6 x 9in (15 x 23cm) piece of upholstery fabric
- 1in (2.5cm) square of pale miniature bear fabric
- Matching ultra suede for the paws and pads
- General-purpose sewing thread
- Extra-strong nylon thread for jointing
- Black stranded embroidery thread for the nose
- Darning and fine sharp needles
- Polyester filling
- Pair of tiny (2mm) matching black beads or bear eyes
- Two ¼in (6mm) fibreboard discs and two cotter pins

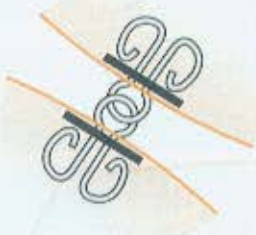
For the trimmings

- Small piece of sew-in interfacing for the shirt front
- 6in (15cm) of narrow ribbon in black and in white
- General-purpose sewing thread to match the ribbons
- 4in (10cm) diameter round base, fabric and glue
- Short length of metallic thread and florist's ribbon
- Coloured paper
- Miniature whisky bottle and dolls' house glasses

Making the New Year Reveller

Trace the pattern pieces for Elizabeth from page 23 and use them to make card templates (see page 9). Transfer the paws and pads onto a single layer of ultra suede and cut out, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each piece. Transfer the nose onto the wrong side of the pale bear fabric and cut out without adding a seam allowance (this is already included). Transfer the remaining pieces onto the wrong side of a single layer of your main bear fabric. Cut out the pieces, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each one. Make the bear following the instructions below, using backstitch for seams and ladder stitch for closing seams (see page 10).

1 *Starting the bear* Stitch the bear following step 1 for Elizabeth (page 24). Make the double neck joint as follows. Hook one cotter pin through the other. Place a ¼in (6mm) fibreboard disc on one cotter pin and use small round-nose pliers to turn the prongs back onto the disc, as shown. Place the part that has the cotter pin turned back in the bear's head.



2 *Completing the bear* Continue following the instructions for Elizabeth and when you come to insert the cotter pin joint in the body, use the cotter pin that is hooked through the one in the head. Place the other fibreboard disc on the cotter pin inside the body cavity and turn back the prongs onto the disc in the normal manner to complete the double neck joint. This gives the bear a wobbly head. Continue following the instructions for Elizabeth to complete the bear.

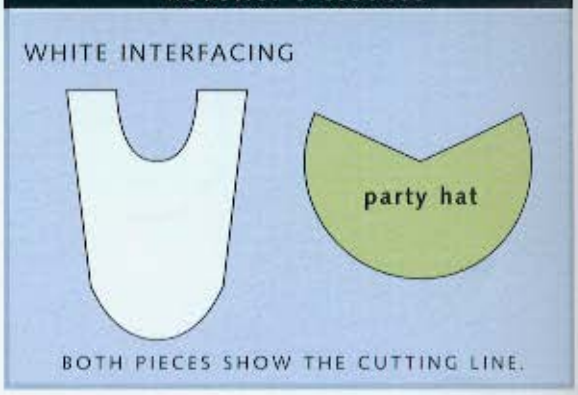
Dressing and trimming the New Year Reveller

1 *Making the shirt and tie* Trace the patterns for the Reveller's clothes given below. Cut out the shirt front in white sew-in interfacing. Using white thread work running stitch down the centre of the white ribbon and then gently pull up the thread for a ruched effect. Stitch this down the shirt front in three rows for the ruffs. Place the shirt front on the bear and stitch in place at the shoulders. Take a couple of stitches at the bottom of the front into the bear's tummy to hold it in place. Using the black ribbon tie a bow round the bear's neck and take a few stitches through the centre of the bow to hold it in place. Cut the ends so it looks like a bow tie.

2 *Making the party hat* Cut out the party hat in brightly coloured paper. Make some tiny streamers by running short lengths of metallic thread across the blade of your paper scissors to make them curl. Dab glue on the edge of the hat at the centre and stick on a few curls. Then bend the paper round and overlap the seam, leaving the curls coming out of the top of the party hat. Leave it to dry and then place it on the bear's head. Hold in place with a pin at the back of the hat, passing it into the back of the bear's head.

3 *Completing the scene* Make some more streamers using metallic thread and narrow strips of coloured paper or florist's ribbon and drape them round the bear's neck. Make a round covered base (see page 46) and then position a miniature bottle of whisky for the bear to lean against. Add few tiny empty glasses and streamers.

Actual-size pattern for the New Year Reveller's clothes



VALENTINE BEARS

'Many a heart learns to love from its first teddy bear.'

A. K.

These Valentine bears are the perfect choice for February and are a super way to express your feelings for someone special. They are two of the smallest bears in the collection so there should always be a place where they can be together.

The bears are made using the pattern for Thomas, basic bear No. 5 (see page 30). They are the same except that the boy bear's arms and legs are slightly larger – if you enlarge all the pattern pieces by even a very small amount he will tower above the girl bear and they will look out of proportion. Both bears are made from the same fabric – matt upholstery fabric.

The girl wears a pretty red ribbon round her head and has a red heart on her chest; the boy has a red bow tie and clutches a long-stemmed red rose. You can also create a romantic scene for the pair.

You will need

For the bears

- 10in (25.5cm) square of upholstery fabric (see page 6)
- Matching ultra suede for pads
- General-purpose sewing thread to match the upholstery fabric
- Black extra-strong nylon thread for attaching the eyes
- Extra-strong nylon thread for jointing
- Black stranded embroidery thread for the nose
- Darning and fine sharp needles
- Polyester filling
- Two pairs of tiny (2mm) matching black beads for eyes
- Two ¼in (6mm) fibreboard cotter pin joints

For the trimmings and base

- Multi-purpose glue
- Cream silk to cover the base
- Oval mount board approximately 6in (15cm) long
- Fine cardboard oval slightly smaller than the oval board
- About 1m (1yd) of narrow red silk ribbon
- Short piece of narrow dark-green silk ribbon
- One plant stick or similar to make the posts, painted brown
- Red heart cake decorations (could also be made from Fimo modelling clay) – ten ⅝in (15mm) hearts and two ¾in (20mm) hearts
- Fine green florist's wire
- Red heart sequins to scatter on the base
- Short pins

Making the bears

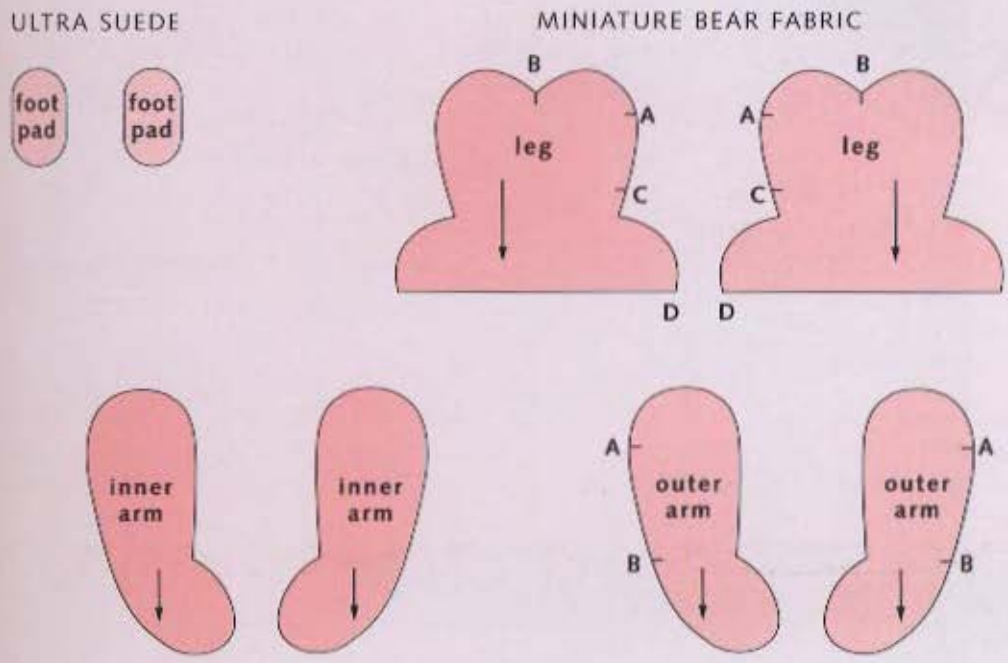
Trace the pieces for Thomas from page 30 and use them to make card templates (see page 9). Transfer two pairs of paws and one pair of foot pads onto a single layer of ultra suede plus one set of foot pads from page 51. Cut out, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each piece. Transfer the remaining pieces with the exception of the arms and legs onto the wrong side of a single layer of miniature bear fabric with the arrow on the pattern pointing in the direction of the fabric pile. Cut out twice, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each one. Cut one set of arms and legs from the Thomas pattern for the girl bear and cut one set using the pattern for the boy bear's limbs (page 51). Stitch the bears following the instructions for Thomas (page 30).

Trimming the bears

Using narrow red ribbon, tie a bow round the girl bear's head and give the boy bear a bow tie. Attach a small heart to the girl bear's chest. To make the red rose, take a short piece of green florist's wire and wrap a length of red ribbon round one end. Hold in place with a few stitches and then wrap round again to complete the rose. Tie a short length of narrow dark-green ribbon round the wire, just below the rose and cut each end at an angle to look like leaves. Sew the rose on the boy bear's paw so he can offer it to his lady.

Actual-size pattern for the boy Valentine Bear

Note: Make one bear using the pieces for Thomas (page 30) and the other using these pieces plus the remaining pieces for Thomas.



ALL PIECES SHOW THE SEWING LINE. ARROWS SHOW DIRECTION OF PILE.

Making the scene

1 *Covering the base* Cover the oval mount board with the cream silk following the instructions on page 46.

2 *Making the ribbon poles* Cut two 4in (10cm) lengths of brown plant stick and make a small hole in one end of each piece – a pin will pass through the base and into this hole to support the stick. Take an 8in (20cm) length of narrow red ribbon and a piece of florist's wire the same length and attach them to one end of one stick – the end opposite the hole. Wrap the ribbon round the wire a few times and then secure the ribbon and wire to the end of the other post. Trim off any excess ribbon and wire. (The wire provides shape while the ribbon adds decoration and provides something to attach the hearts to.)

3 *Creating the scene* Hold the posts on the base and make a tiny mark to show their positions. On the underside of the base insert two short pins in the positions marked. Mark the position of the bears' feet on the base and insert short pins ready for them to stand on. Glue the hearts to the line, beginning and ending with a large heart. Allow the glue to dry, then place the posts on their pins. Fit the bears on their pins. Finish by gluing a scattering of small red heart sequins on the base.

TIP – Thread jointing

When thread jointing the limbs make sure you insert the needle back into the hole it came out of, otherwise your bear will have a dimple when the thread is pulled tight.

ST PATRICK'S DAY BEAR

'The secret, in my opinion, of the continued appeal of the teddy is his immense ability to listen and understand.'

PETER BULL

As 17th March is St Patrick's Day, a Celtic-looking bear dressed in green seemed an appropriate choice for the March bear. He is made from gold mohair with a light beige mohair nose and wears a long green waistcoat with matching hat. To emphasize the Irish theme he stands on a base shaped into a shamrock and clutches three small shamrocks in his hand. He measures approximately 3¾in (9.5cm) from his feet to the top of his hat.

This bear is based on Elizabeth (page 24), the bear with the 'pop-on' nose, but his long-pile fabric makes him look completely different. The only adjustment is that you leave the hair round this bear's nose untrimmed to give him wonderful whiskers.

You will need

For the bear

- 6 x 9in (15 x 23cm) piece of gold mohair fabric
- Small piece of light-beige mohair for the nose
- Matching ultra suede for the paws and pads
- General-purpose sewing thread to match the gold mohair
- Extra-strong nylon thread for jointing
- Black stranded embroidery thread for the nose
- Darning and fine sharp needles
- Polyester filling
- Pair of ¼in (3mm) matching black beads or bear eyes
- ¼in (6mm) fibreboard cotter pin joint

For the trimmings

- Florist's wire
- Green paper for shamrocks
- Green felt for the hat and waistcoat; thread
- Card for the base
- Glue
- Gold or silver card for the hat buckle
- Narrow black and green ribbons
- Green felt-tip pen (optional)

Making the St Patrick's Day Bear

Trace the pattern pieces for Elizabeth from page 23 and use them to make card templates (see page 9). Transfer the paws and pads onto a single layer of ultra suede and cut out, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each piece. Transfer the nose onto the wrong side of the pale mohair fabric and cut out without adding a seam allowance (this is already included). Transfer the remaining pieces onto the wrong side of a single layer of gold mohair fabric. Cut out the pieces, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each one. Make the bear following the instructions for Elizabeth (pages 24-25), using backstitch for seams and ladder stitch for closing seams (see page 10). When working his face and adding his nose, do not trim away all the mohair as these whiskers give him a wild and woolly look.

Dressing the St Patrick's Day Bear

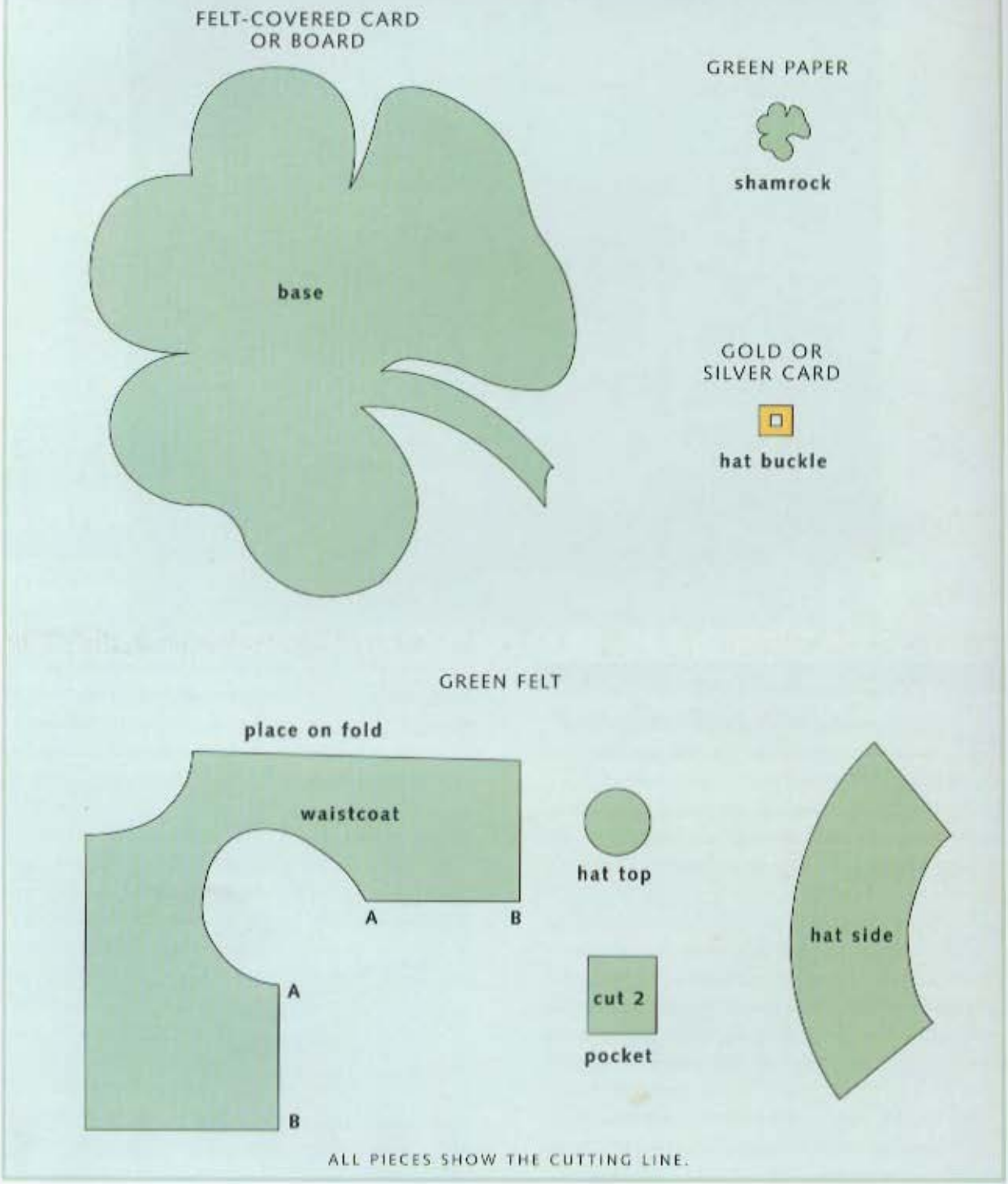
1 *Getting started* Trace the patterns for the bear's outfit from page 54 and use them to make templates. Cut the long waistcoat, pockets and hat pieces in green felt. Fold the waistcoat to match adjacent side seams A-B with right sides facing and backstitch from A to B. Sew the pockets in position and fit the waistcoat on the bear.

2 *Making the hat* Either stitch or glue the short ends of the hat side piece together to make the hat shape. Insert the circle for the top of the hat and glue in place. Attach a piece of narrow black ribbon round the hat and cut out a buckle in gold or silver card to glue in position at the front of the hat. Stitch the hat to the bear's head.

3 *Making the shamrocks* Draw round the shamrock template on the right side of a single layer of green paper. Place a short piece of florist's wire in position on the wrong side of the paper and then stick another piece of green paper on top of the florist's wire. Cut out the shamrock. Make four shamrocks in this way. Position one in the hat band. Tie a bow with some narrow green ribbon round the other three and stitch to the bear's paw.

4 *Making the base* Glue a piece of green felt to card. Trace the shamrock base pattern piece onto the card and cut it out. If any white card shows round the edge, go over it with a green felt-tip pen. Position the St Patrick's Day Bear on the shamrock base as shown in the photograph above.

Actual-size pattern for the St Patrick's Day Bear's outfit



THE JESTER

'Remember when I said teddy can't sleep without me?
Well, truth is, I can't sleep without teddy.'

WEBSTER PAPADOPOLIS

April begins with April Fools' Day or All Fools' Day which may have been the final day of the festivities celebrating the vernal equinox. The tradition, found throughout Europe is thought to have originated in France. This long-lasting tradition made a Jester bear seem the perfect choice for this month.

The Jester is based on Sad Old Harry (page 20) with a traditional costume including a jester's wand, known as a bauble. Some pieces of his costume are part of his body, making him quick to dress. His head and paws are made from gold long-pile upholstery fabric and the rest of him is made from dark green and dark red upholstery fabric to represent his costume. Although the pieces may look complicated, the Jester is actually quite simple to make.

The Jester probably won't be able to stand, so you may want to make a base to put him on (see page 46). He is approximately 4in (10cm) tall.

You will need

For the bear

- 3 x 5in (7.5 x 13cm) piece of gold long-pile mohair fabric
- 6 x 5in (15 x 13cm) piece of dark red upholstery fabric
- 6 x 5in (15 x 13cm) piece of dark green upholstery fabric
- Matching ultra suede for the paws
- General-purpose sewing thread in green and gold
- Extra-strong nylon thread for jointing
- Black stranded embroidery thread for the nose
- Darning and fine sharp needles
- Polyester filling
- Pair of ⅛in (3mm) matching black beads or bear eyes
- ¼in (6mm) fibreboard cotter pin joint

For the trimmings

- Soft, richly coloured fabric that will gather well for the trousers
- Red and green cotton fabrics
- Nylon monofil invisible thread
- Small gold beads
- Seven small gold bells
- Gold braid for decoration
- Three small buttons
- Bondaweb or Fray Check crystals

For the bauble

- 3in (7.5cm) square of smooth upholstery fabric (see step 5)
- Pair of black matching seed beads for eyes
- Cocktail stick; glue
- Red and green stranded embroidery thread
- Narrow ribbon to match the Jester fabric

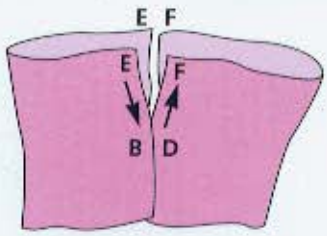
Making the Jester

Trace the pattern pieces for the Jester from pages 58-59. Use them to make card templates (see page 9). Transfer the paws onto a single layer of ultra suede and cut out, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each piece. You do not need foot pad pieces. Transfer the head, head gusset, another pair of paws and the ears onto the wrong side of a single layer of gold mohair fabric. Trace two arms (one for the bear's left inner arm and one for his right outer arm), two legs and one body onto dark green fabric. Trace two more legs, one body and two arms onto dark red fabric. Cut out the pieces, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each one.

1 *Making the bear* Make the bear following the instructions for Sad Old Harry (page 21) and referring to the photograph, right, using backstitch for seams and ladder stitch for closing seams (see page 10) but do not add his ears yet. When sewing the red and green fabrics together, use dark green thread and when sewing the gold fabric use gold thread. His feet do not have foot pads. Before turning the leg through, carefully clip the excess fabric away from the point so you can turn a nice sharp point.

Dressing the Jester

1 *Making the trousers* Trace the patterns for the Jester's clothes and accessories from pages 58-59 and use them to make templates. Cut out the two trouser pieces and pin them together with right sides facing. Sew from A to B and then from C to D. Put the two E points together and sew from E to where the B and D seams finish. Turn and continue sewing to the two F points (as shown). Using your thread double, work a small running stitch from E round the hem of the trouser leg back to E but do not finish off the thread. Using a new piece of thread do the same from F to F. Finally, work a small running stitch round the top of the trousers, leaving the thread attached. Fit the trousers on the Jester and then gently pull up the gathering thread round the waist and secure the end. Do the same with each leg but before securing the thread tuck the fabric up the leg so that when you pull up the gathering thread you cannot see the stitches.



Sew gold braid round the top of the trousers and also round each arm where the paws join. Add beads to decorate the braid round the wrists. Stitch three buttons down the centre seam of his body.

2 *Starting the hat* Cut out the hood from green fabric. With right sides together sew the centre seam from A to B, stitching right to the end of the point. Fit the hood on the bear's head, checking the central peak, B, is in line with the bear's nose; pin in place. Using invisible nylon thread stitch the peak in position – sew a few stitches down one side and then thread another needle. Begin at the central peak and sew a few stitches down the other side. Complete the stitching at each side. This ensures the hood does not move. Secure the hood under the bear's chin – the remaining fabric will be covered by the collar.

3 *Making the collar* Place two 4 x 2in (10 x 5cm) pieces of red and green fabric right sides together (red underneath). Sew a ⅜in (1cm) seam along the long edge starting 1½in (3cm) in from the right-hand side. Lay the joined fabric out, right side down, and use Bondaweb or Fray Check crystals to bond a piece of red or green cotton fabric to the wrong side. Place the collar template on the fabric with the seam positioned along the line from A to B. Cut round the collar and cut along the broken line so that you can fit it on the bear with the opening at the back. Ladder stitch the back seam once you've fitted the collar on the bear and decorate with small gold beads or bells at each point.

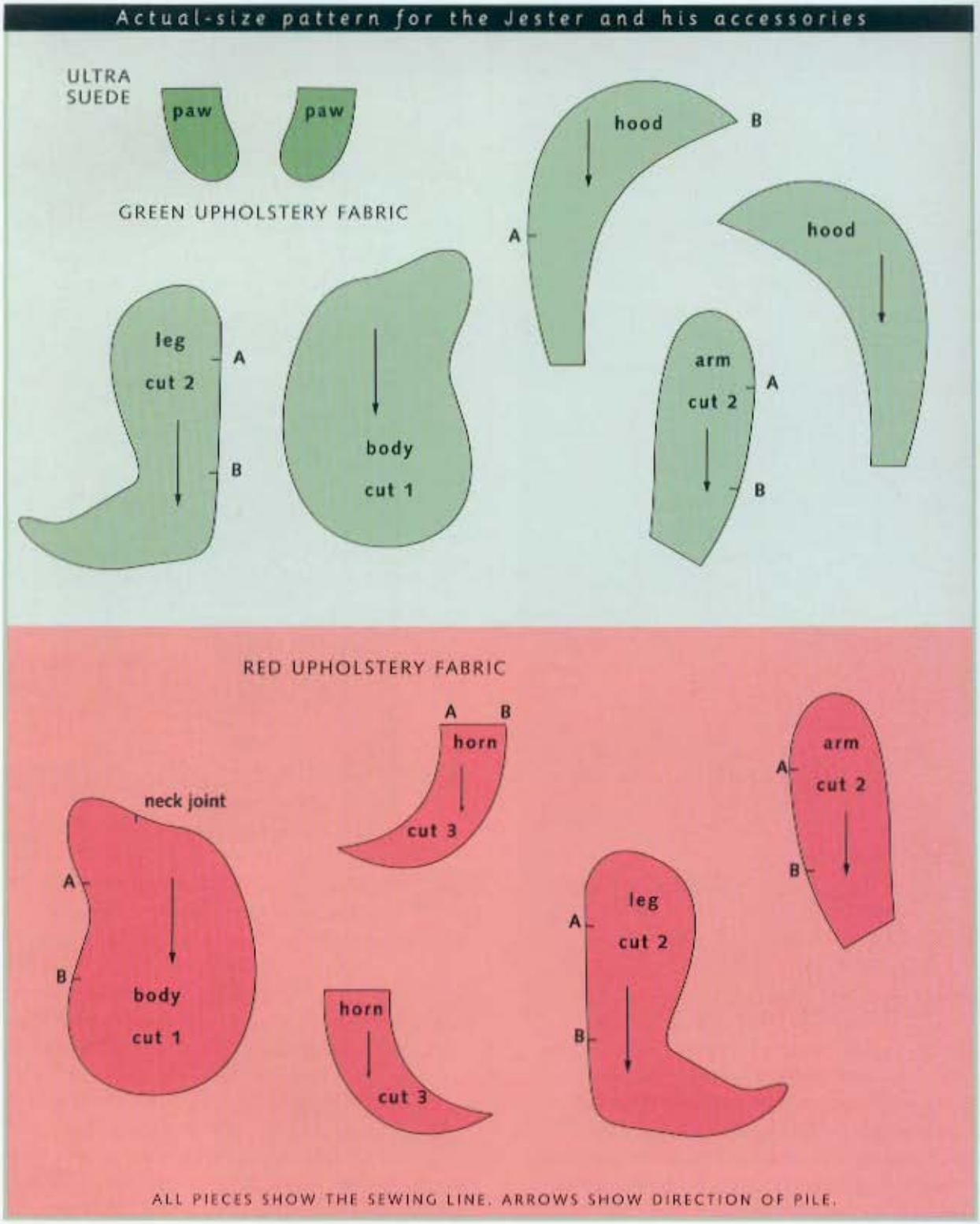
4 *Completing the hat* Cut out six horns from red fabric and pin them together in pairs with right sides facing. Backstitch round each horn from A right round to B, using dark red thread, leaving the short straight edge open. Clip the excess fabric away at the point (as you did for the pointed foot), turn right sides out and stuff – it isn't necessary to close the gap with stitches. Ladder stitch the horns to the hood – sew one pointing forward first (he looks like a unicorn) and then add the other two with one pointing left and the other right. Finally, neatly ladder stitch his ears in place – these should be positioned symmetrically just where the hood meets his face as shown in the photograph on the previous page.

5 *Starting the bauble* The Jester would not be complete without his bauble which is made from the bauble pattern (page 59). As it is so small, choose a smooth fabric which does not have much pile, does not fray and that goes well with the colour scheme of the Jester. Cut out the head, head gusset and ears and assemble following the instructions for Baby Bear (page 32). Do not insert a cotter pin joint. Decorate a cocktail stick by winding embroidery thread or ribbon round it and gluing it in place. Using extra-strong nylon thread, work running stitch round the head opening and insert the cocktail stick. Dab a little glue round the opening and then pull up the running stitch thread and secure it.

6 *Finishing the bauble* To make the collar use invisible thread double to work running stitch along one edge of a 4in (10cm) length of ribbon. Gently pull it up to fit round the bear's neck and secure it. Stitch in place round the bear's neck. Use the same colour ribbon and method to make a decoration to go on the head and stitch it down the centre of the head. Stitch the finished bauble to one of the Jester's paws.

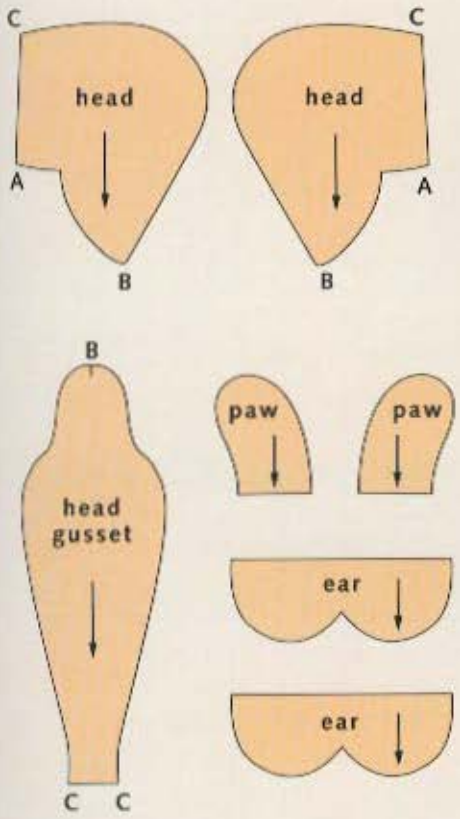
7 *Making the base* As the Jester has pointed feet and no foot pads, it is unlikely that he will be able to stand so make him a small round wooden base following the instructions on page 46.

Actual-size pattern for the Jester and his accessories

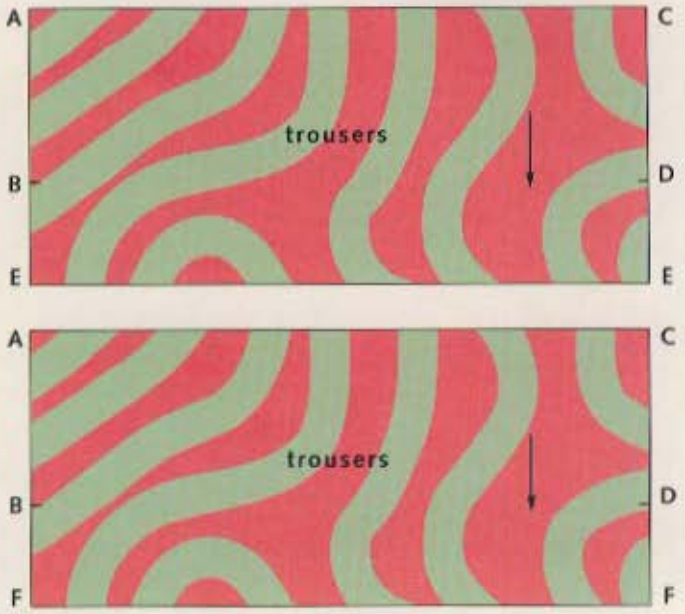


Actual-size pattern for the Jester, his clothes and bauble

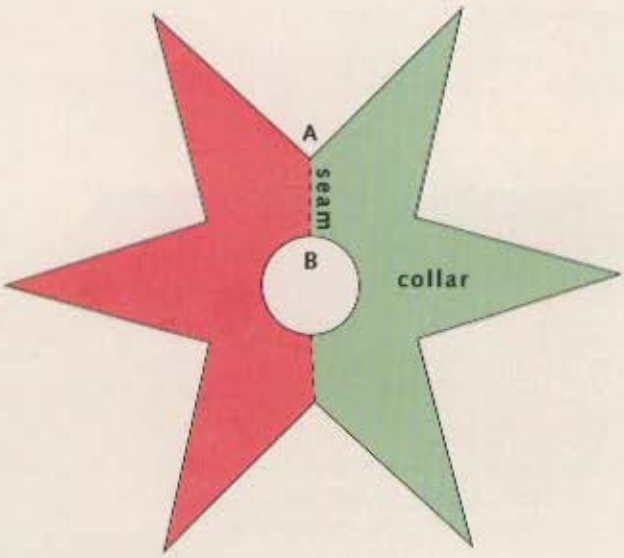
GOLD LONG-PILE MOHAIR



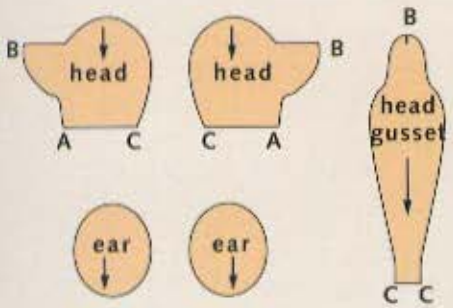
RICH FABRIC



JOINED RED AND GREEN FABRIC



FINE BEIGE UPHOLSTERY FABRIC



ABOVE PIECES SHOW THE SEWING LINE. ARROWS SHOW DIRECTION OF PILE.

ABOVE PIECES SHOW THE CUTTING LINE. ARROWS SHOW DIRECTION OF GRAIN.

MAYPOLE BEAR

'For every bear that ever there was
Will gather there for certain because
Today's the day the teddy bears have their picnic.'

KENNEDY, 'THE TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC'

A 19th-century Victorian tradition of dancing round a maypole, often performed by young girls, was the main entertainment for occasions like well-dressing and May Queen festivities – hence a Maypole Bear was chosen as this month's birthday bear.

The Maypole Bear is based on George, basic bear No. 4 (page 26) but because the Maypole Bear is made in a paler fabric and wears a pretty dress she looks completely different. She is made from short-pile mohair and measures approximately 3in (7.5cm) tall. The spectators, who are optional, are all Baby Bears (see page 32).

Making the Maypole Bear

Trace the pattern pieces for George from page 28 and use them to make card templates (see page 9). Transfer the paws and pads onto a single layer of ultra suede and cut out, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each piece. Transfer the remaining pieces onto the wrong side of a single layer of mohair with the arrow on the pattern pointing in the direction of the fabric pile. Cut out the pieces, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each one. Make the bear following the instructions for George (page 27), using backstitch for seams and ladder stitch for closing seams (see page 10).

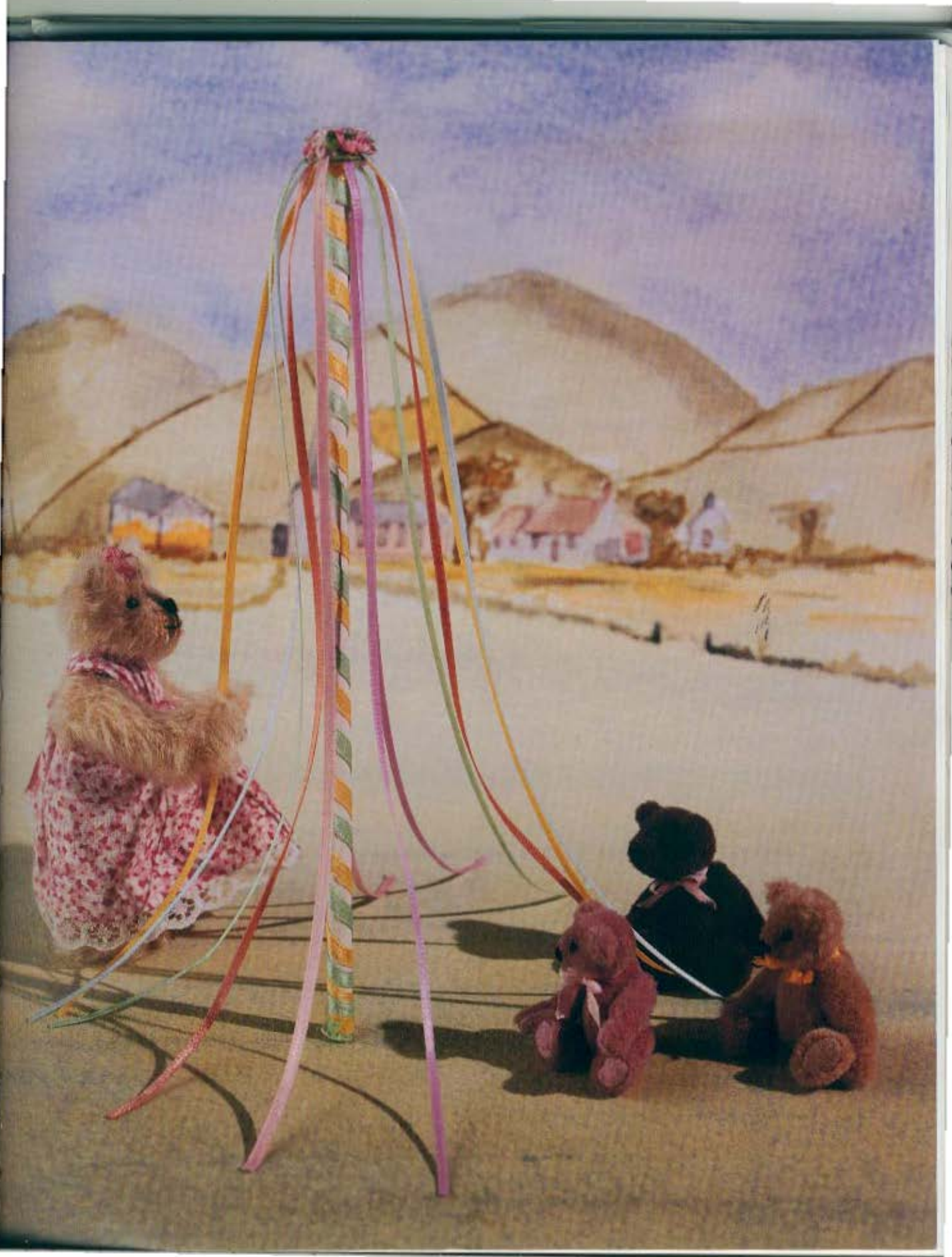
You will need

For the bear

- 9 x 6in (23 x 15cm) piece of light coloured ¼in (6mm) pile mohair
- Matching ultra suede for paws and pads
- General-purpose sewing thread to match the mohair
- Extra-strong nylon thread for jointing
- Black stranded embroidery thread for the nose
- Darning and fine sharp needles
- Polyester filling
- Pair of tiny (2mm) matching black beads or bear eyes
- One ¼in (6mm) fibreboard cotter pin joint

For the trimmings and base

- Fabric for the dress with a small print
- Matching thread and narrow ribbon
- Short length of small-scale lace to trim the dress
- ½ yard (50cm) of narrow ribbon in each of six different colours
- Additional narrow ribbons and beads
- 7½in (19cm) plant stick painted white for the maypole; glue
- Small piece of interfacing and spray starch
- Two A3 sheets of mount board; thin card
- Paint and other decorations for the base



Dressing the Maypole Bear

1 *Making the bodice* Trace the patterns for the dress below and cut out of small-print fabric. With right sides together join the bodice pieces using backstitch and sewing from A round to B. Leave the straight seam open for turning. Clip off the corners at the shoulders and make three or four tiny clips in the curve of the neck so the seam will lie flat when turned. Turn out and press.

2 *Fitting the dress* Fit the bodice on the bear, crossing the straps over at the back and pin in place. Turn a ¼in (5mm) hem on the skirt and attach the lace. Work two rows of running stitch round the top of the skirt and press under. Sew the back seam of the skirt and then gently pull up the rows of running stitch to gather in the waist. Fit on the bear and pull the running stitch tight. Secure the running stitch and then stitch the bodice to the skirt. Sew a length of ribbon onto the dress waist and tie a bow at the back. Stitch a tiny bow on the bear's head.

TIP – Protect your clothes

Wear a PVC apron when working with mohair which frays badly. This protects your clothes from getting covered in short hairs which are often difficult to remove.

Making the scene

1 *Making the maypole* Cut a ½in (1.5cm) diameter circle of thin card. Cut halfway across the circle and take one cut edge over the other by a small amount to make a cone. Glue to secure it. Cut the six ribbons in half and then glue each ribbon to the inside of the cone, alternating the colours. Make another slightly smaller cone and glue it inside the ribboned cone. This covers all the ribbon ends and helps secure them.

2 *Trimming the maypole* Make the flowers for the top of the maypole by drawing a ½in (1.5cm) diameter circle on a piece of interfacing and then stitching ribbon loops all over it, changing colour at intervals. Add a few beads to finish. Glue to the top of the cone.

3 *Making the base* Paint a country scene on an A3 sheet of board and paint another A3 board green for the base. Sprinkle with tiny yellow flowers (cake decorator's gypsophila painted yellow with a felt pen). Place the maypole in the centre of the base and secure with a pin from underneath. Using spray starch, press each ribbon on the cone and then glue the cone to the top of the maypole. Place the bear in position and stitch one maypole ribbon to her paw. For spectators follow the instructions for Baby Bear, page 32.

Actual-size pattern for the Maypole Bear's dress

ALL PIECES SHOW THE CUTTING LINE. ARROWS SHOW DIRECTION OF GRAIN.

WEDDING BEARS

'Love me, love my teddy bear.'

SAMANTHA ARMSTRONG

June is the traditional month for a wedding, so this scene seemed the natural choice for this month. It would make a lovely gift or wedding cake centrepiece.

The bride is based on Elizabeth (page 24), the bear with a pop-on nose, while the groom is based on George (page 26). He is approximately 4½in (11cm) tall including his hat, while the bride is 3⅛in (8cm) tall. The bridesmaid is based on Thomas (page 29) and is only 2⅝in (6.5cm) tall. The materials for her clothes and the base and bower are given on page 69.

You will need

For the bears

- 6 x 9in (15 x 23cm) piece of upholstery fabric for each bear
- 1in (2.5cm) square of pale miniature bear fabric for the bride's nose
- Matching ultra suede for paws and pads
- General-purpose sewing thread to match each main fabric
- Extra-strong nylon thread for jointing
- Black stranded embroidery thread for the noses
- Darning and fine sharp needles
- Polyester filling
- Pair of ⅛in (3mm) matching black beads or bear eyes for the groom
- Two pairs of tiny (2mm) matching black beads for the bride and bridesmaid
- ¼in (6mm) fibreboard cotter pin joint for each bear

For dressing and trimming the groom

- Dark grey felt for his jacket and top hat
- Grey striped fabric for his trousers
- Small piece of black felt for his cummerbund
- Small piece of white silk for his cravat
- Narrow red ribbon and green embroidery thread for his buttonhole
- Narrow black ribbon for the hat band
- Two small gold beads for a tie pin
- General-purpose thread to match the felt and each ribbon
- Small black button
- Iron-on interfacing
- Glue

For dressing and trimming the bride

- White silk
- Tulle and fine net for the petticoat and veil
- White general-purpose sewing thread
- Small white beads plus pink pearls and possibly gold beads
- Narrow silk ribbon in green and three shades of pink
- Short length of florist's wire
- Nylon monofil sewing thread (invisible thread)
- Lace for trimming the dress
- Sew-in interfacing for the head-dress and bouquet

Making and dressing the Groom

1 *Getting started* Make the groom following the instructions for George (page 27). Trace the patterns for his clothes from page 66. Transfer the cravat onto silk or cotton, lining up the arrow on the pattern with the fabric grain and cut it out. Transfer the trousers onto striped fabric, the cummerbund onto black felt and all other pieces onto grey felt. Fuse iron-on interfacing to the wrong side of the felt you will use to cut the top and side of the hat. Don't stiffen the fabric for the brim as the underside will show. Cut out all the pieces then stitch them as explained here, taking an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance.

2 *Making the trousers* Turn a small hem on each trouser leg. Pin the two legs together with right sides facing and backstitch from A to B and from C to D. Turn right sides out and fit onto the bear. Stitch the inside leg seams. Take a few small stitches at the back of the trousers to take in any fullness and then place the black felt cummerbund around the bear's waist, covering the top of the trousers. Stitch the bottom edge of the cummerbund to the trousers, leaving the top of the cummerbund open.

3 *Adding the cravat* Fold the cravat in half and put it round the bear's neck. Tuck the ends into the cummerbund and use a tiny dab of glue on the inside of the cummerbund to hold it in place. Make sure all the raw edges of the cravat are turned under and do not show. Sew two gold beads for the tie pin in the centre of the cravat.

4 *Making the jacket* Fold each jacket piece with right sides together so the seam A-B matches and stitch the seam. Now match the seam C-D on the two jacket pieces and stitch it. To make the cuff on the sleeves, turn up ⅛in (3mm) and anchor in place with a few tiny stitches. Fold each sleeve in half, with the turned edge on the inside, and stitch from E to F. Turn the sleeve right side out. Work a small running stitch round the top of the sleeve between G and H but do not finish off the thread. Insert each sleeve into the jacket by matching the jacket side seam and the sleeve seam. Pull up the running stitch and ease the top of the sleeve to fit into the armhole. Backstitch in place. Repeat with the other sleeve.

5 *Fitting the jacket* On the right side of the jacket lift the back flap across the opening and stitch in place. Turn the lapels back on the front of the jacket and anchor them in place. Put the jacket on your bear and sew a small button on the front. Make the buttonhole from red ribbon stitched with green thread; stitch to his jacket.

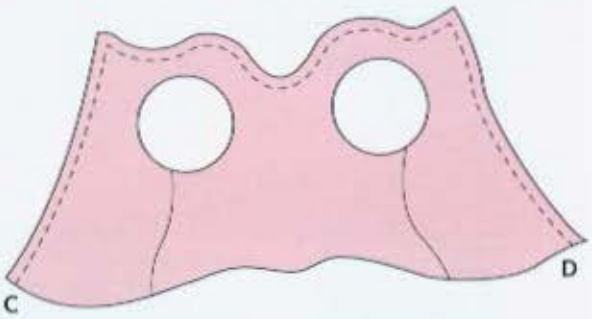
6 *Making the hat* Fold the side of the hat in half and butt the short edges together. Oversew them. Insert the top of the hat and finally attach the brim – you may get a better finish if you use a little glue to attach these rather than oversewing. Cut and fit a narrow band of black ribbon round the hat as a hat band.

Making and dressing the Bride

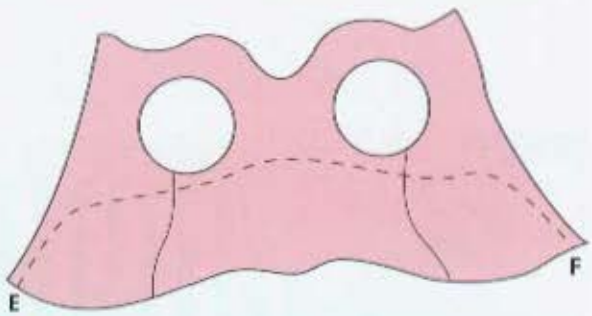
1 *Getting started* Make the bear following the instructions for Elizabeth (pages 24-25). Trace the patterns for the bride's clothes from pages 67-68. Transfer the skirt and bodice pieces onto silk, lining up the arrow on the pattern pieces with the fabric grain and cut out. Cut the veil from fine net and the petticoat from tulle. Stitch all the pieces as explained here, taking an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance and using backstitch for seams.

2 *Making the skirt* Fold the skirt with right sides together and sew the back seam from C to D. Turn right sides out and press the seam open. Press under a ¼in (5mm) hem and sew lace all round the hem, finishing with a nice, sharp point at the back of the train. Then work running stitch round the top of the skirt and gently pull it up. Fit the skirt onto the bear and secure the running stitch.

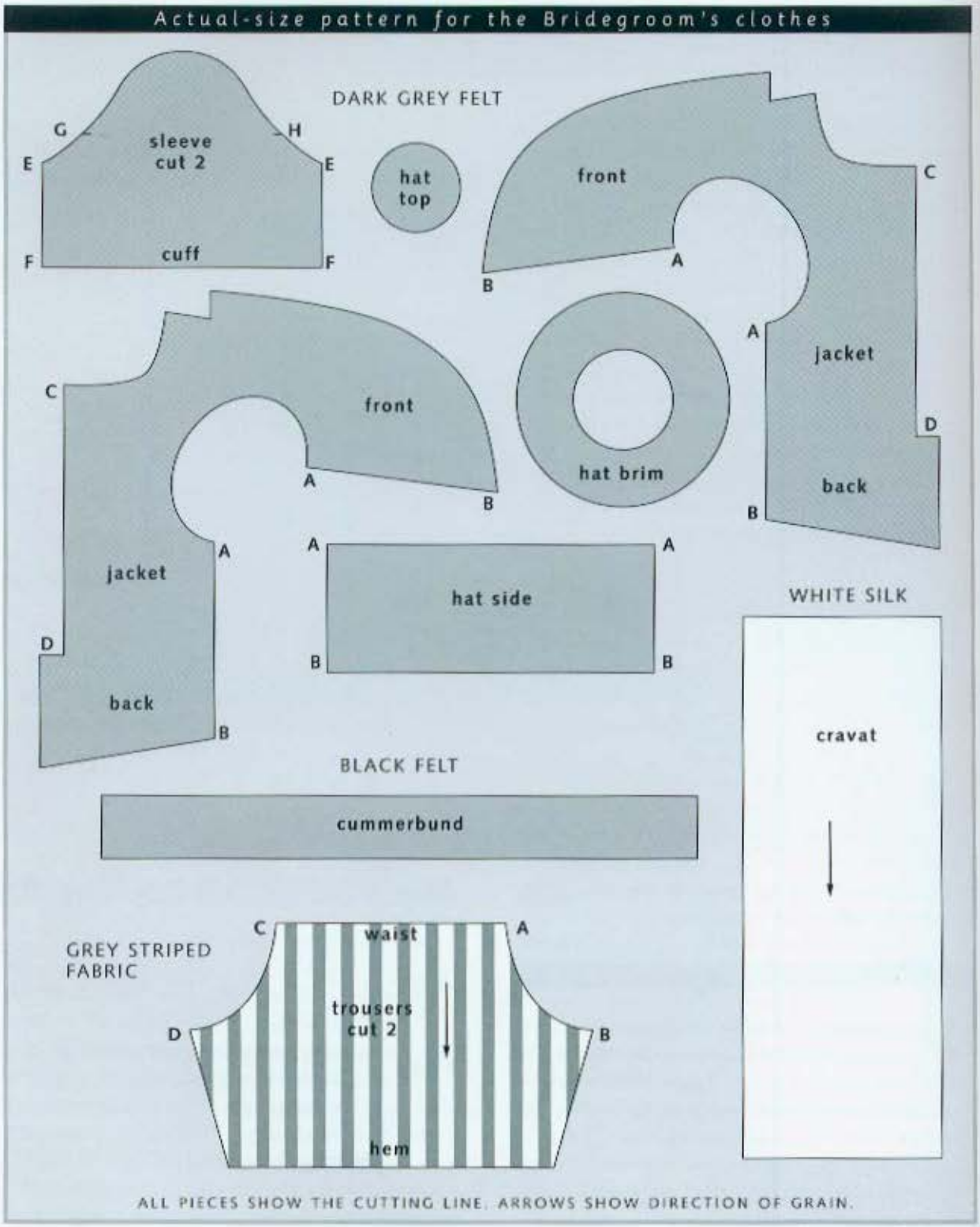
3 *Making the petticoat* Fold the petticoat in half with right sides facing to match the short edges and stitch from A to B; turn right sides out. Work running stitch round the top of the petticoat and then gently pull up. Fit the petticoat onto the bear and secure the running stitch.



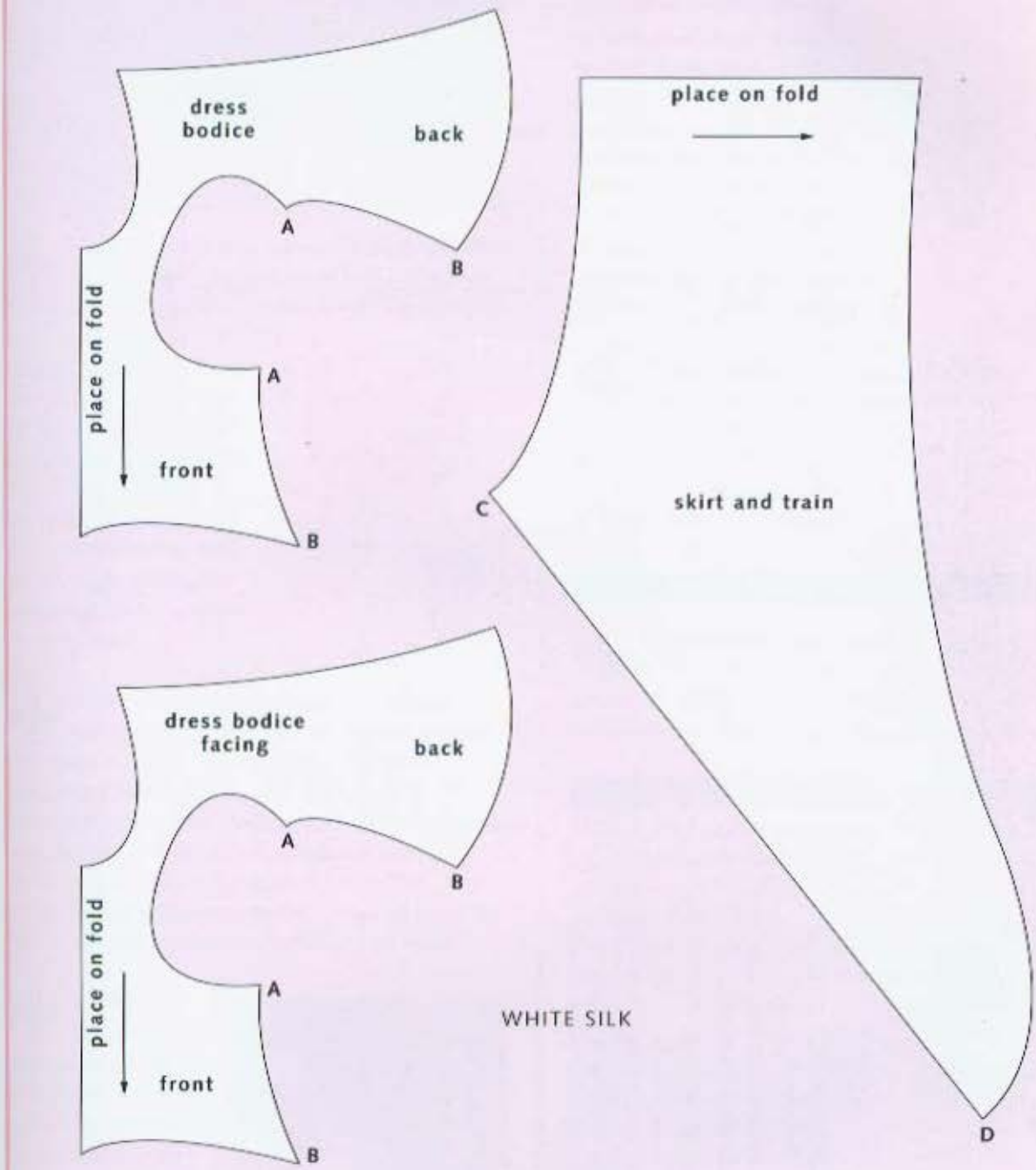
4 *Starting the bodice* One of the bodice pieces makes the facing. With right sides together fold each piece to match the side seams and backstitch from A to B. Pin the bodice to the facing with right sides together and backstitch all the way round from C to D, as shown.



5 *Completing the bodice* Turn the bodice right sides out and trim away the facing from E to F along the broken line in the illustration to reduce bulk. Sew lace to the bottom of the bodice and then sew a row of white beads along the edge of the bodice, just above the lace and continue up the back of the bodice. Sew clusters of three white beads randomly over the whole bodice.


Actual-size pattern for the Bridegroom's clothes
DARK GREY FELT
G
H
E
E
sleeve
cut 2
F
cuff
F
hat
top
front
C
A
B
A
jacket
D
back
B
C
front
A
B
hat brim
jacket
A
D
back
B
A
A
hat side
B
B
WHITE SILK
cravat
BLACK FELT
cummerbund
GREY STRIPED
FABRIC
C
waist
A
trousers
cut 2
D
B
hem
ALL PIECES SHOW THE CUTTING LINE. ARROWS SHOW DIRECTION OF GRAIN.

Actual-size pattern for the Bride's clothes

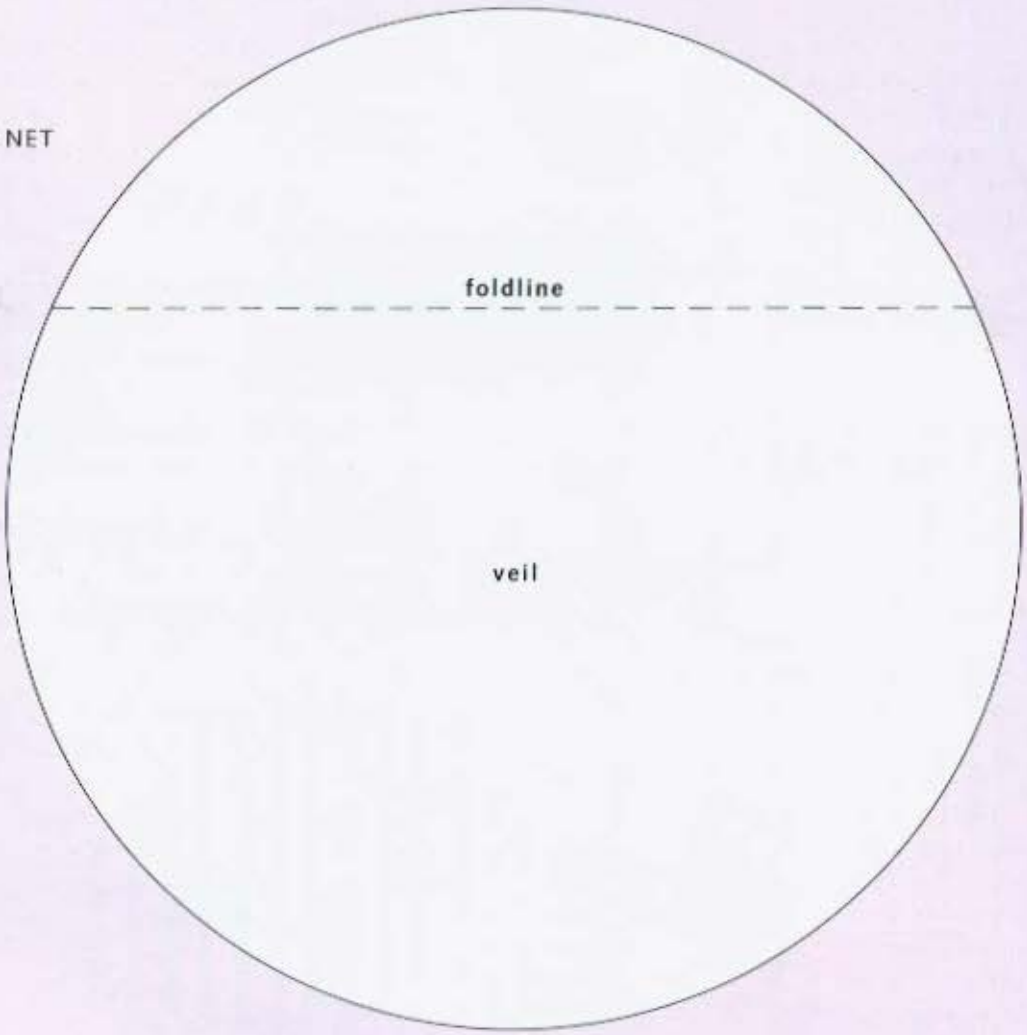


ALL PIECES SHOW THE CUTTING LINE. ARROWS SHOW DIRECTION OF GRAIN.

Actual-size pattern for the Bride's clothes

TULLE

FINE NET

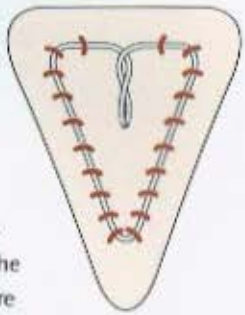


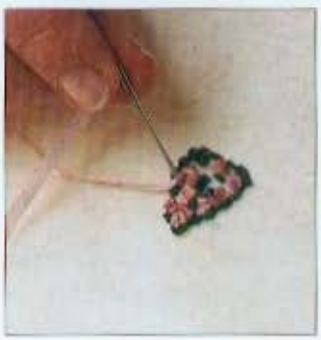
BOTH PIECES SHOW THE CUTTING LINE.

6 *Completing the dress and veil* Fit the dress bodice on your bear – the back of the bodice folds onto the opposite shoulder. Stitch in place and then continue the row of beads to each shoulder. To finish the bodice sew a row of six beads down the centre front, starting at the neck. Use white thread to work a decorative stitch around the edge of the net veil (see photo above). Fold the veil as indicated on the pattern and stitch in place on the bear's head.

7 *Making the head-dress* Thread a needle with nylon monofil thread and knot the ends together. Stitch loops of narrow ribbon to a piece of sew-in interfacing. Continue making small loops randomly over a circular area of about ½in (1cm) diameter. Add a few loops in another colour, then add a few small pink pearl beads. When complete, cut out the interfacing round the decorated area and attach to the bear's head on top of the veil, ensuring the background interfacing is not visible.

8 *Making the bouquet* Make the bouquet for the bride using the same method as for the head-dress but working over a larger area and shape. Draw the shape of the bouquet on the interfacing before stitching. Start by going round the edge of the shape with green ribbon and then continue into the middle. Fill the whole area using several shades of pink ribbon and complete by adding pink pearl beads randomly. Bend a short length of florist's wire into the shape of the bouquet and twist the ends together to form a handle. Sew it onto the back of the bouquet, as shown. Carefully cut round the ribboned area on the interfacing and then bend the wire slightly to give the bouquet depth.





9 *Attaching the bouquet* Using extra-strong thread, take a few stitches from paw to paw to hold them together. Be careful to insert the needle back in exactly the same hole that it came out of to avoid dimples, in the same way as when thread jointing. Place the bouquet between the paws and anchor in position.

Making and dressing the Bridesmaid

1 *Getting started* Make the bear following the instructions for Thomas (pages 30-31). Trace the pattern for the bridesmaid's dress from page 70. Treat your fabric with Fray Check crystals to prevent fraying, then

You will need

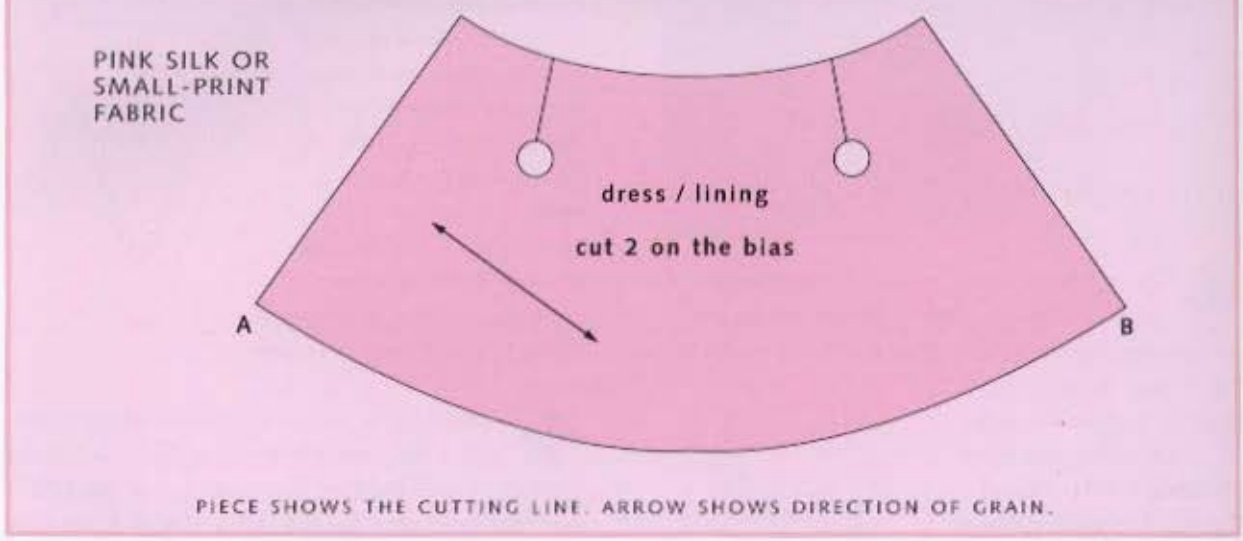
For dressing and trimming the bridesmaid

- Pink silk or small-print fabric
- Lace, braid and small beads
- Fray Check crystals
- Narrow ribbon in white and pink
- General-purpose sewing thread to match the dress fabric and ribbons
- Nylon monofil thread
- Sew-in interfacing; florist's wire

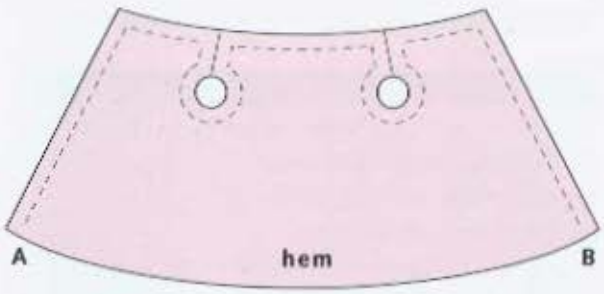
For the base and bower

- Fabric and mount board
- Florist's wire and white florist's tape
- String of white pearl beads
- Artificial gypsophila
- Confetti

Actual-size pattern for the Bridesmaid's dress


PINK SILK OR SMALL-PRINT FABRIC
dress / lining
cut 2 on the bias
A
B
PIECE SHOWS THE CUTTING LINE. ARROW SHOWS DIRECTION OF GRAIN.

transfer the pattern twice to the fabric, lining up the arrow on the pattern with the fabric grain and cut out. Stitch the pieces as explained below, taking an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance, using backstitch for seams and ladder stitch for joining the back seam (see page 10).



2 *Starting the dress* With right sides facing pin the two dress pieces together and backstitch from A to B, going down one side of the armhole, round the armhole and back up the other side, as shown. One dress piece will be the lining. Carefully cut on the armhole line shown on the pattern. Clip corners and turn right sides out. Attach a length of lace round the hem of the lining piece so it shows below the dress. Attach some braid round the hem of the dress.

3 *Completing the outfit* Fit the dress on the bear and ladder stitch the centre back seam. Use narrow ribbon for the shoulder straps and then drape a piece of lace round her shoulders, secured at the front with a bow or a few small beads. Make a small circlet head-dress following the instructions for the bride's head-dress (step 7) and sew to the bridesmaid's head.

4 *Making the floral hoop* Bend a length of florist's wire into a circle and wrap the ends over each other to secure the hoop. Wind pink ribbon round the hoop and decorate the top half with ribbons and beads using the same method as for the bridal bouquet and head-dress. Stitch the hoop to the bridesmaid's left arm.

Making the bower and base

Cover an oval base following the instructions on page 46. To make the bower bind five lengths of florist's wire together with white florist's tape. Wrap with a string of white pearl beads and decorate with artificial gypsophila. Make a hole in the base ½in (1.2cm) from the edge on both sides and insert the bower. Place the bears underneath the bower with the groom standing to the right of the bride and the bridesmaid on her other side. Sprinkle confetti on the base to complete the scene.

UNCLE SAM BEAR

'I don't think my name is likely to be worth much in the toy bear business but you are welcome to use it.'

THEODORE 'TEDDY' ROOSEVELT

The teddy bear is said to have got its name from the 26th President of the United States of America, Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt after he featured in a cartoon by Clifford K. Berryman in November 1902. Since American Independence Day is the 4th of July, Uncle Sam Bear seemed an appropriate choice for this month. Uncle Sam is a slim bear who stands tall and straight, wearing his hat of red, white and blue with pride. Make the flagpole and American flag to complete the miniature scene.

Uncle Sam Bear is based on Bartholomew, basic bear No. 1 and is made from a combination of miniature bear fur fabric and blue felt – you won't have to make his trousers because his legs are already clad in felt. He stands approximately 4½in (12cm) tall including his hat.

You will need

For the bear

- Miniature bear fabric for his head, ears, arms and upper body (American upholstery fabric, short pile mohair or soft upholstery fabric)
- Matching ultra suede for paws
- Black felt for the shoes and foot pads
- Blue felt for the legs and half of the body
- General-purpose sewing threads to match the miniature bear fabric and felts
- Black extra-strong nylon thread for attaching the eyes
- Extra-strong nylon thread for jointing
- Black stranded embroidery thread for the nose
- Darning and fine sharp needles
- Polyester filling
- Pair of tiny (2mm) matching black beads for eyes
- One ¼in (6mm) fibreboard cotter pin joint

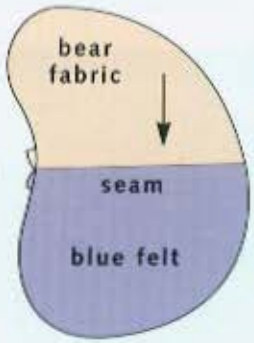
For dressing and trimming

- 6in (15cm) square of black felt for the jacket
- 5in (13cm) square of blue felt for the hat and flag
- General-purpose sewing threads to match the felts
- ⅛in (3mm) wide ribbon in red and white (or red and white striped fabric)
- ⅛in (3mm) wide blue ribbon
- Thick black thread for the boot laces (cotton perlé or stranded embroidery thread)
- White cotton perlé for the flag-pole cord
- Medium-weight iron-on interfacing
- Very small piece of Bondaweb (optional)
- Fabric glue
- One small black button
- Small silver stars
- Wooden skewer or plant stick for the flag pole
- White paint
- 2¾in (7cm) square of beige mount board for the base
- Fine wire – fuse wire or similar
- 2¾in (7cm) square of Fablon (self-adhesive baize) or felt to finish the base

Making Uncle Sam Bear

Trace the pieces for Bartholomew from page 15 and use them to make card templates (see page 9). Trace the pieces for the head, ears and arms onto the wrong side of a single layer of miniature bear fabric with the arrow on the pattern pointing in the direction of the fabric pile. Trace the paws onto ultra suede. Cut out the pieces, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each one. Cut the pads for the feet from black felt, again adding seam allowances all round. Now use the Uncle Sam patterns (pages 74-75) to cut out the feet from black felt and the legs from blue felt in the same way.

1 *Cutting out the body* Only the top half of Uncle Sam's body is made of fur – the lower half is made of felt to represent his trousers. It's easiest to join the felt and fur and then cut out the body. To do this pin a piece of miniature bear fabric and blue felt together with right sides facing, making sure the pile on the fur runs down towards the felt. Stitch them together taking the usual ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance, using blue sewing thread and working in backstitch. Open out the fabric and place the two body templates on top, so the upper body is on the fur fabric and the lower body on the felt. Cut out the body pieces, remembering to add seam allowances and making sure the felt seam aligns across both pieces.



2 *Assembling the bear* Join the body pieces and make the arms following steps 1-2 for Bartholomew on page 13. To make the legs refer to steps 3-4 below – you can't use the usual method on felt.

3 *Making the legs* With right sides together pin the straight edge of one black felt foot to the straight edge of each blue felt leg. Stitch the seam with backstitch, following the sewing line marked on your fabric. Fold each leg in half and sew from A (top of the leg) to B (toe). Add the foot pads as for Bartholomew, step 4 (page 14).

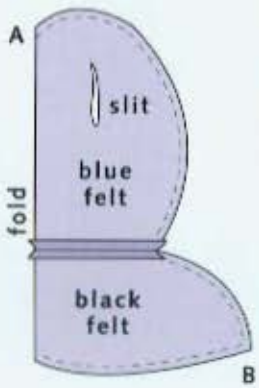
'The world is divided into two nations. Those with teddy bears, those without. Each thinks the other odd.'

JOHNNIE HAGUE

TIP – Fabrics which fray

If you are using this method of stitching the legs for a bear made from a fabric that frays, apply a line of clear nail varnish or Fray Check to the cutting area of the slit and allow to dry completely before making the cut. This will help to prevent fraying.

4 *Completing the legs* Make a slit on the inside of each leg approximately ¼in (6mm) long with small, sharp scissors. As the legs are made from felt which does not fray, you can then turn the leg right sides out through this hole without a problem. Stuff the legs and then close the opening on the inside of each leg with ladder stitch.



5 *Completing the bear* Follow steps 5-16 for Bartholomew (pages 14-18) to complete your Uncle Sam Bear.

Dressing and trimming Uncle Sam Bear

1 *Making the striped shirt front* If you can find narrow red and white striped fabric you can use this for the shirt front. Otherwise make your own as follows. Cut the shirt front (page 75) from iron-on interfacing. With the shiny side facing you, lay on top lengths of red and white striped ribbon alternately. Cover with a piece of grease-proof paper to protect your iron and then iron with a medium heat. Turn over and press again. Cut off any excess ribbon which should leave you with a red and white striped shirt-front. Fit the shirt on your bear and stitch in place at the shoulders only.

2 *Making the bow tie* Using the blue ribbon, tie a bow round Uncle Sam Bear's neck (see page 18). Stitch through the bow to stop it coming undone.

3 *Adding the shoelaces* Using a length of thick black thread, take long stitches on Uncle Sam Bear's feet following the route of a shoe lace and then tie a bow with the ends, just as you would on a shoe.

4 *Making the jacket* Cut out the jacket and fold each piece with right sides together so the seam A-B matches; stitch the seam. Match the seam C-D on the two pieces and stitch it. To make the cuff on the sleeves, turn up ¼in (3mm) and anchor in place with a few tiny stitches. Fold each sleeve in half, with the turned edge on the inside, and stitch from E to F. Turn the sleeve right side out. Work a small running stitch round the top of the sleeve between G and H but do not finish off the thread. Insert each sleeve into the jacket by matching the jacket side seam and the sleeve seam. Pull up the running stitch and fit the sleeve into the armhole. Backstitch in place.

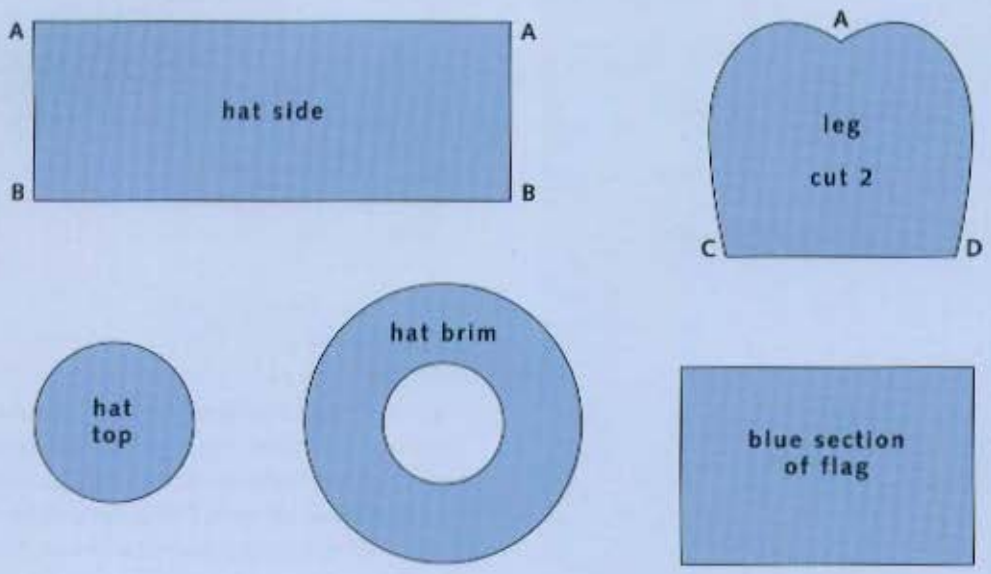
5 *Fitting the jacket* On the right side of the jacket where the centre back seam finishes lift the flap across the opening and stitch in place. Turn the lapels back on the front of the jacket and anchor them in place. Put the jacket on your bear and finish by sewing a small button on the front.

6 *Making the hat* Using Bondaweb (fusible bonding fabric) or fabric glue, stick two pieces of blue felt together and cut out the hat brim. Fuse a piece of iron-on interfacing to a scrap of blue felt and cut the side and top of the hat from this. Fold the side of the hat in half with the interfacing inside, butt the short edges together and oversew using matching thread. Insert the top of the hat and oversew or glue it to the sides, then attach the brim.

7 *Decorating the hat* Cut two pieces of red ribbon and one piece of white ribbon to fit round the hat. Place these alternately on the shiny side of a piece of iron-on interfacing and cover with grease-proof paper. Press with a medium-hot iron, then press again on the reverse. Trim, if necessary, then glue the striped band to the hat, butting the ends together at the back. Finish with three small silver stars glued to the front above the band.

Actual-size pattern for Uncle Sam Bear

BLUE FELT



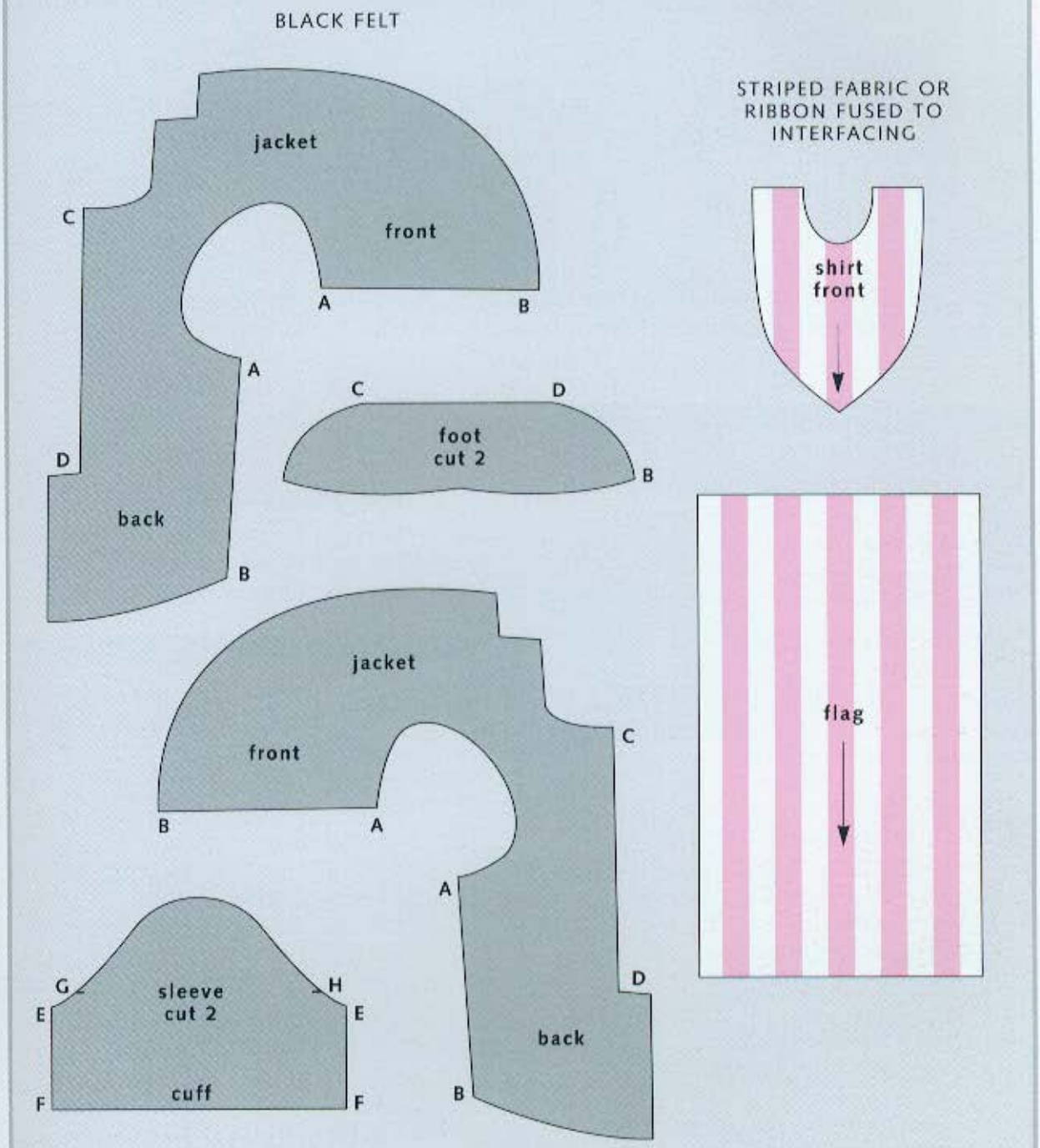
ALL PIECES SHOW THE CUTTING LINE EXCEPT THE LEG WHICH SHOWS THE SEWING LINE.

8 *Making the flag* If you have a piece of red and white striped fabric, cut out the flag (page 75). If you don't, you can make it by attaching red and white ribbon to a piece of iron-on interfacing, as you did for the shirt-front. Lay some very fine wire across the back of the flag and then cover with interfacing so you can mould the flag to look as though it has movement. Cut out a small rectangle of blue felt and stick it on with fabric glue. To complete the flag stick stars on the blue felt.

9 *Making the flag pole* Paint a wooden skewer white, (the type used for barbecues) or use a plant stick. Trim it to 8in (20cm) and stick the flag to one end. Tie a piece of white cotton perlé round the flag pole and at the top and bottom of the flag and leave the ends loose.

10 *Making the base* Make a hole near one corner of the beige mount board for the flag pole and two small pin holes where Uncle Sam Bear's legs will stand. Secure the flag pole in position with a little glue if needed. Insert two short pins through the base ready to put your bear on, then stick the piece of Fablon (self-adhesive baize) or felt to the bottom of the base. This helps the base stand flat – otherwise the pinheads which the bear stands on can make the base wobble. When the glue has dried position the bear on the pins.

Actual-size pattern for Uncle Sam Bear



ALL PIECES SHOW THE CUTTING LINE EXCEPT THE FOOT WHICH SHOWS THE SEWING LINE.
ARROWS SHOW DIRECTION OF GRAIN WHERE APPLICABLE.

SUN-BLESSED BEAR

'I regret burning my old love letters, giving away my teenage records and leaving to travel light. But it's Ted I miss most of all.'

WENDY FULLER

You will need

For the bear

- 6 x 9in (15 x 23cm) piece of gold mohair fabric
- Matching ultra suede for paws and pads
- General-purpose sewing thread to match the mohair
- Extra-strong nylon thread for jointing
- Black stranded embroidery thread for the nose
- Darning and fine sharp needles
- Polyester filling
- Pair of ⅛in (3mm) matching black beads or bear eyes
- ¼in (6mm) fibreboard cotter pin joint

For dressing and trimming

- Cotton print fabric for the bikini
- Striped fabric for a towel
- Fabric for the sun umbrella
- Narrow ribbon for trimming the outfit
- 1yd (1m) of fine ⅛in (5mm) hat straw (see Suppliers, page 95)
- General-purpose sewing thread to match the bikini fabric and hat straw
- Bondaweb or Fray Check crystals
- Plant stick or wooden kebab skewer
- Two A3 sheets of mount board for the base and background
- Washed sand or brown sugar
- Small shells and PVA glue
- Paint and brushes for the background

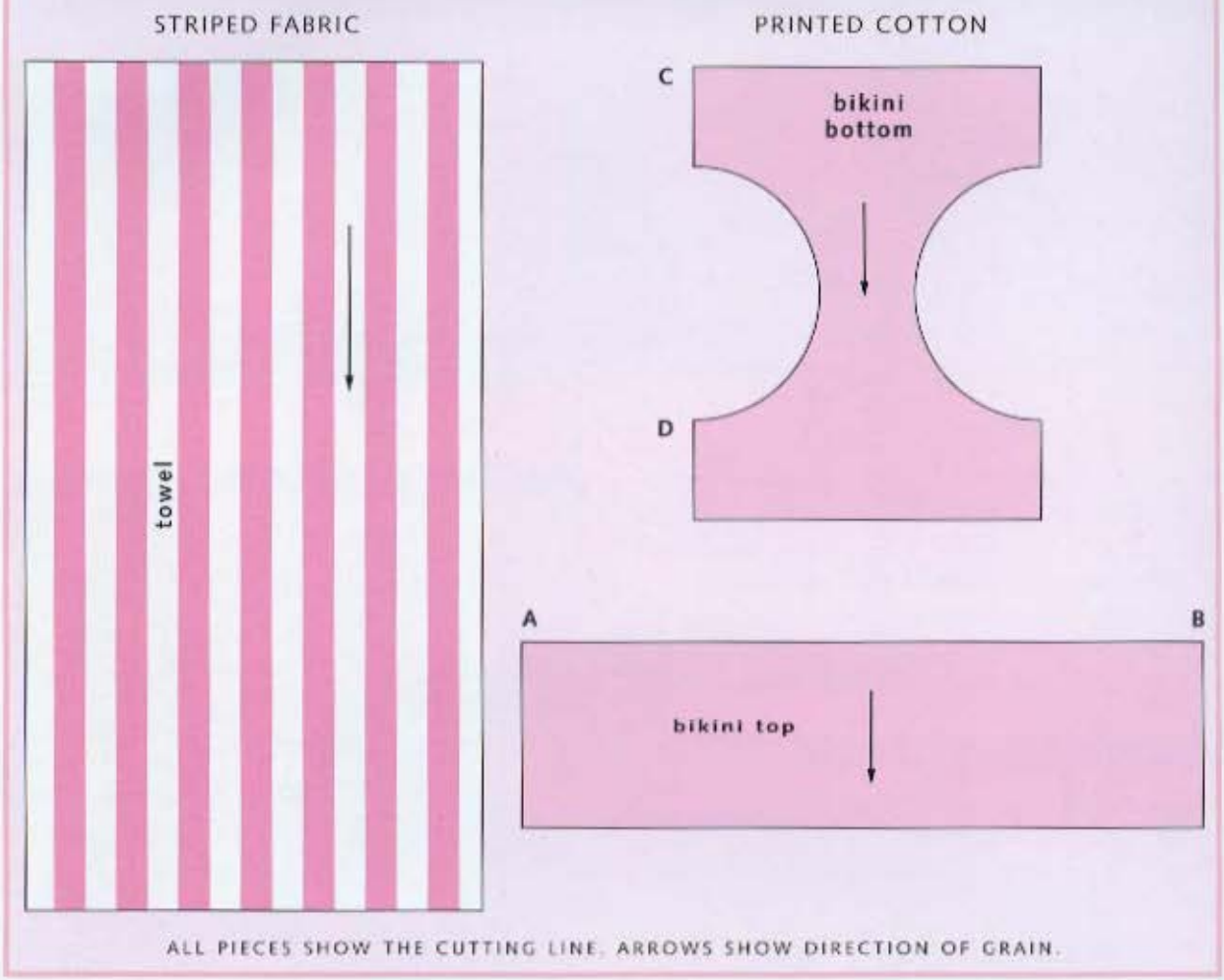
Lying on the beach relaxing and topping-up her tan, this lucky bear presents a familiar scene for the month of August.

Sun-blessed Bear is based on George (page 26) but she has claws which you can add if you wish. She's made from gold mohair fabric and measures approximately 4in (10cm) tall including her hat.

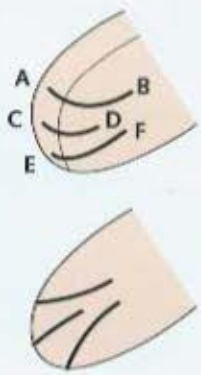
Making Sun-Blessed Bear

Trace the pattern pieces for George from page 28 and use them to make card templates (see page 9). Transfer the paws and pads onto a single layer of ultra suede and cut out, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each piece. Transfer the remaining pieces onto the wrong side of a single layer of gold mohair with the arrow on the pattern pointing in the direction of the fabric pile. Cut out the pieces, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each one. Make the bear following the instructions for George (page 27) but making the adaptations given overleaf, using backstitch for seams and ladder stitch for closing seams (see page 10).

Actual-size pattern for Sun-blessed Bear's clothes and accessories



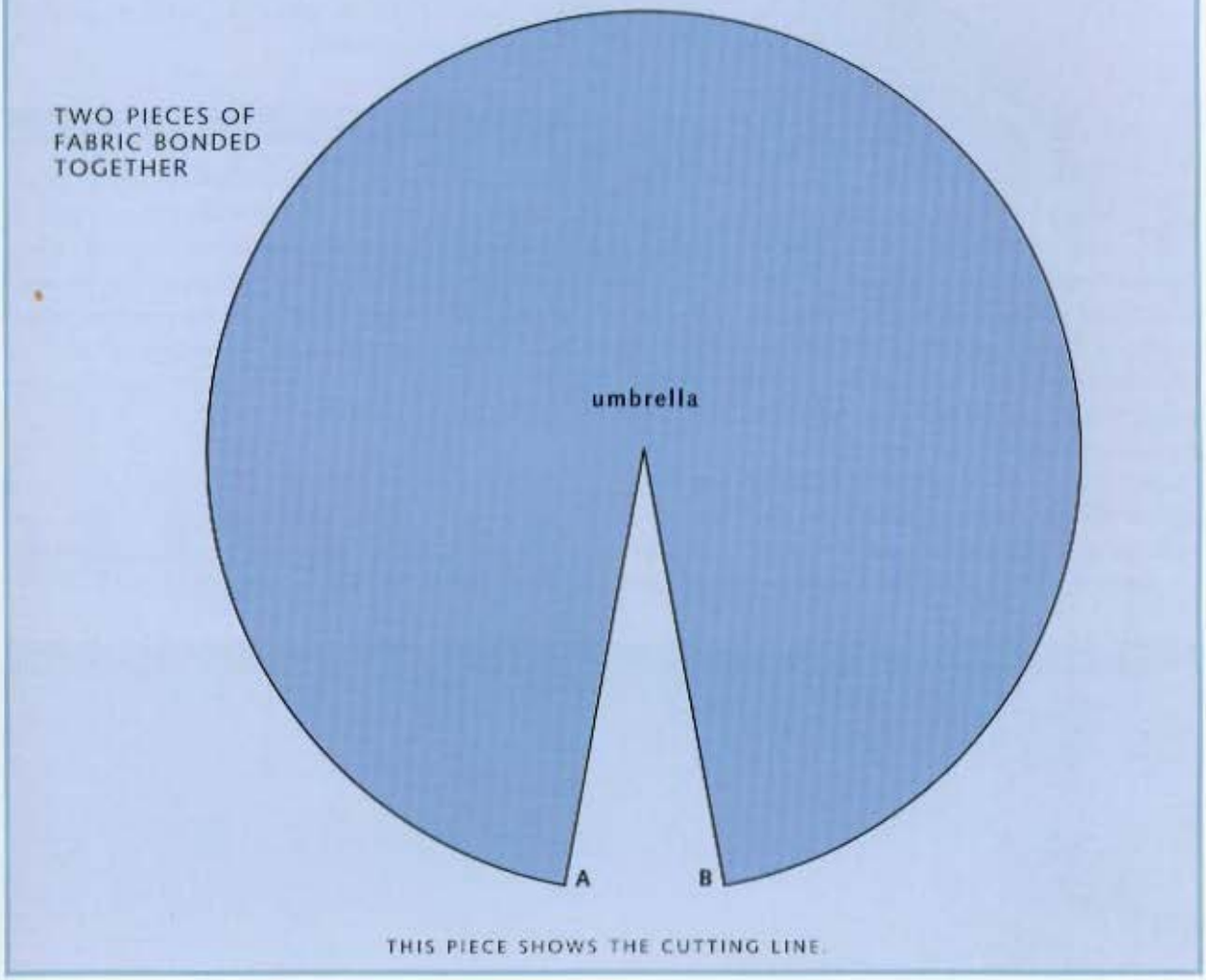
Adapting the bear As mohair is used for this bear, clip off all the hair on her nose before stitching the nose and mouth for a more feminine look. If you wish to add claws, work them using one strand of black embroidery thread with a small knot. Insert the needle in the arm and 'pop' the knot into the fabric, bringing the needle out at A on the paw pad. Insert the needle at B and bring it out at C; repeat for D and E. Finally, insert the needle at F and bring it out further up the arm to finish the thread with a knot which can then be lost in the arm. Repeat on the other paw and both the foot pads.



Dressing Sun-blessed Bear

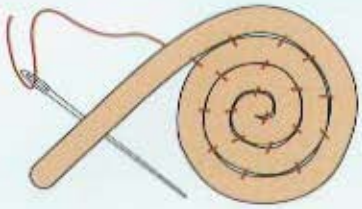
1 *Cutting out the pieces* Trace the patterns for the bikini, towel and sun umbrella above and cut the bikini from printed cotton fabric and the towel from striped fabric. For the umbrella first bond two pieces of fabric together with wrong sides facing using Bondaweb or Fray Check crystals, then cut out the pattern.

Actual-size pattern for Sun-blessed Bear's umbrella



2 *Making the bikini top* With right sides together fold the fabric in half lengthways and use backstitch to sew from A to B. Turn right sides out and centre the seam on one side. Press. Fold the tube of fabric in half and use the narrow ribbon to tie a knot round the middle. Pull tight and secure, as shown. Fit the bikini top onto the bear and stitch in place at her back. Cross the ribbon over on the back of the bear and tie round the back of the bikini.

3 *Making the bikini bottom* Turn an ⅛in (3mm) hem on all the raw edges. If you like, you can work a decorative embroidery stitch (chain stitch or stem stitch) on the right side to decorate the fabric further. With right sides together join C to D. Fit the bikini bottom onto the bear and sew the remaining side seam to hold it in place.



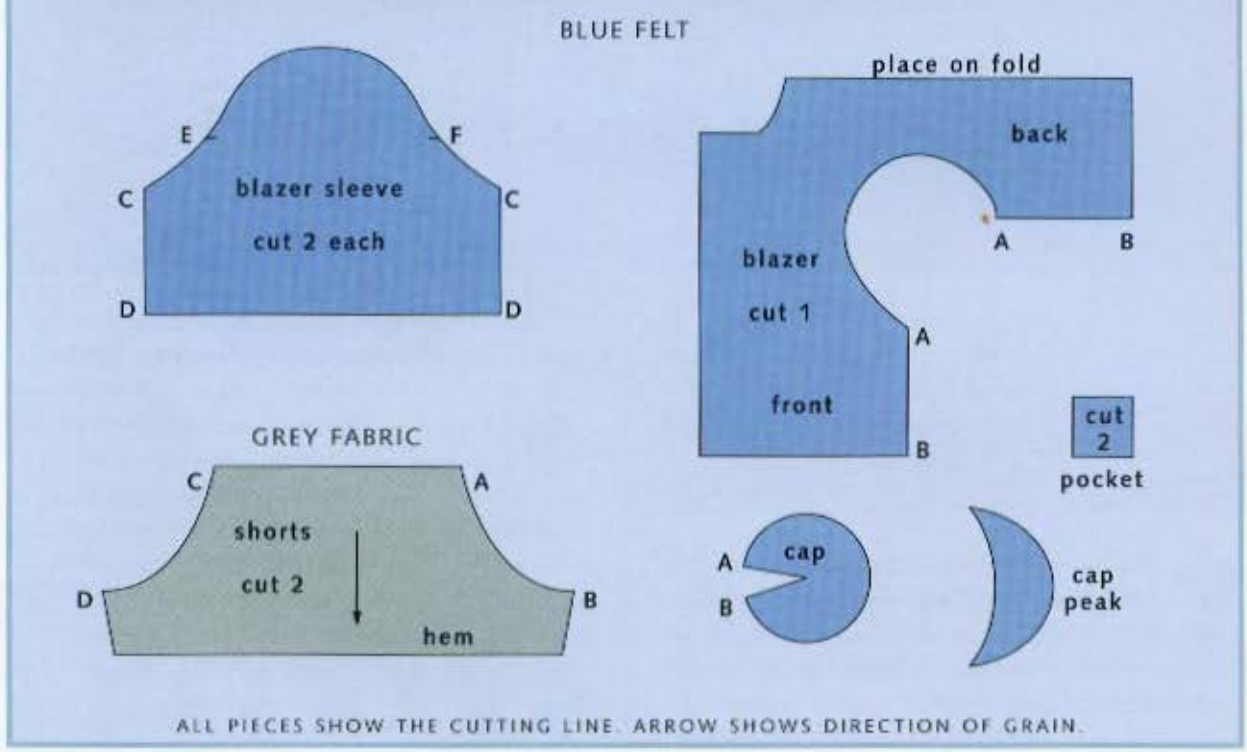
4 *Making the hat* Starting at the centre of the crown stitch the straw round and round using matching thread, with each layer overlapping or butting up to the previous one. Control the shaping by the tension applied as the straw is stitched. It should be tight where rounding is needed and eased where it is to be flat. Check the shape as you go by fitting it on the bear's head. For the flat brim ease the straw and continue going round and round until the brim is wide enough. Finish off the thread securely, working over and over the end of the straw before cutting it off as it frays badly. Tie a length of narrow ribbon round the brim and finish with a bow at the front. Stitch the hat in place on the bear.

5 *Making the towel and umbrella* Fray all the edges of the towel. For the umbrella, overlap A and B and glue the seam to the centre. Glue the plant stick or wooden skewer in position.

Making the background and base

Paint a beach scene complete with a few palm trees on an A3 sheet of mount board. Paint the other sheet of mount board in the same colour to represent the beach and then cover with a coat of PVA diluted with water. Sprinkle with washed sand or brown sugar to give the sand effect. Allow to dry completely, then place the towel, bear and sun umbrella as shown in the picture (page 77). Add a few tiny shells to complete the scene.

Actual-size pattern for the Back to School Bears' clothes



BACK TO SCHOOL BEARS

'Wise teachers – well, kind ones, anyway – invite teddies to school on the very first day.'

JAMES FURY

September usually sees children returning to school after the summer holiday so these two bears are on their way.

The bears are both based on Walter (page 33). The boy is made from light grey upholstery fabric and the girl from light pink upholstery fabric and both have contrasting light beige inner ears and noses. They each measure approximately 3in (7.5cm) tall. Of course, you can change the colours of the bears if you wish.

You will need

For the bears

- 6in (15cm) square of light grey upholstery fabric
- 6in (15cm) square of light pink upholstery fabric
- Piece of light beige upholstery fabric
- Ultra suede for the paws and pads
- General-purpose sewing thread to match the upholstery fabrics
- Extra-strong nylon thread for jointing
- Black stranded embroidery thread for the nose
- Darning and fine sharp needles
- Polyester filling
- Two pairs of tiny (2mm) matching black beads or bear eyes
- Two ¼in (6mm) fibreboard cotter pin joints

For the clothes

- Blue felt for the blazers and cap
- Grey fabric for the boy's shorts
- Narrow blue and white striped fabric for girl's dress
- Brown fabric for the satchel or interfacing coloured brown with a felt-tip pen
- Lightweight interfacing
- Striped braid or ribbon for the school tie and badges
- Raffia and blue ribbon for the girl's boater
- Blue felt-tip pen
- Six small buttons
- Fray Check crystals

Making the Bears

Trace the pattern pieces for Walter from page 35 and use them to make card templates (see page 9). Transfer the paws and pads for each bear onto a single layer of ultra suede and cut out, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each piece. Transfer the noses and inner ear pieces onto the wrong side of the light beige fabric. Transfer the remaining pieces onto the wrong side of the pink and grey upholstery fabrics with the arrow on the pattern pointing in the direction of the fabric pile. Cut out the pieces, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each one. Make the bears following the instructions for Walter (page 34), using backstitch and ladder stitch (see page 10).

Dressing the School Bears

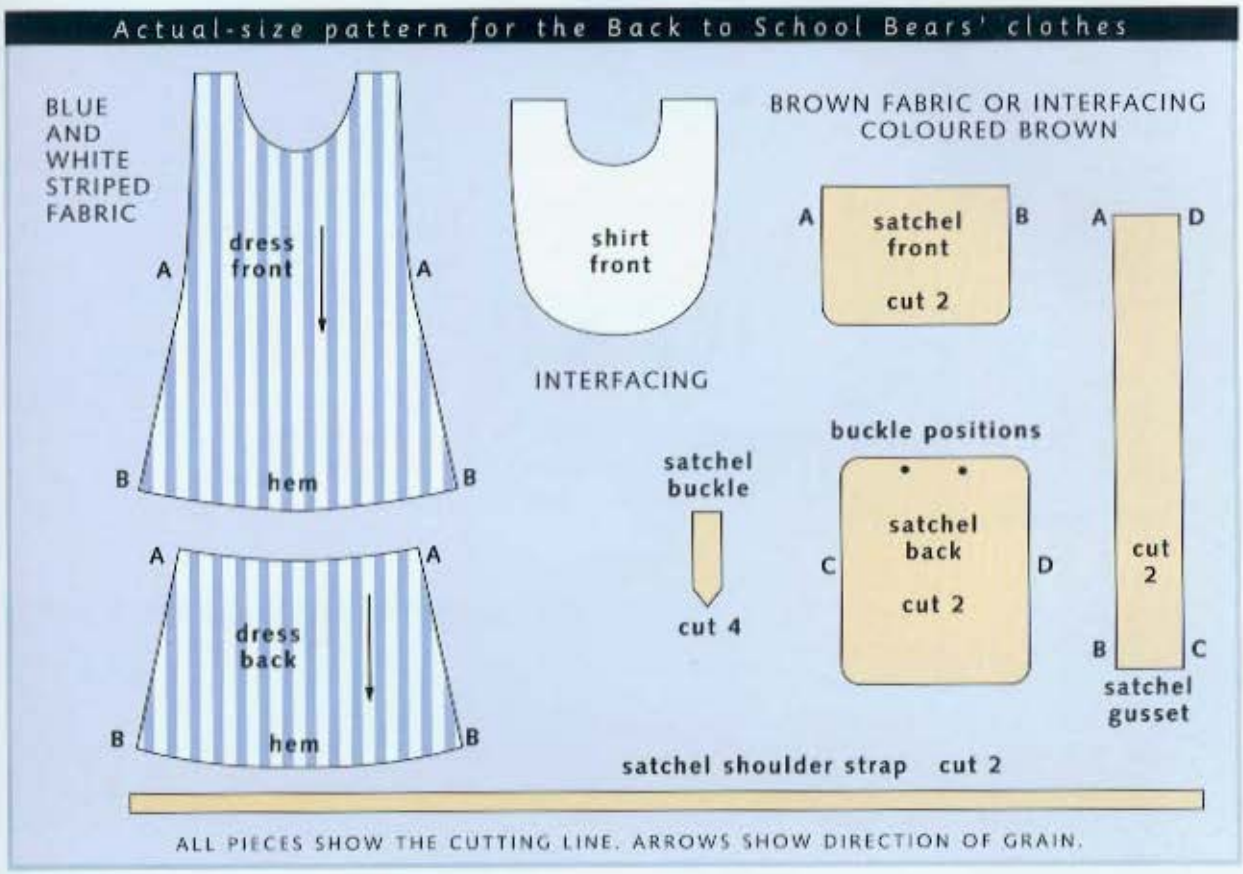
1 *Cutting out the pieces* Trace the patterns for the bears' clothing from pages 80 and 83. Treat the dress fabric with Fray Check crystals and then cut out the dress pieces. Cut two sets of pattern pieces for the blazers from blue felt, then iron interfacing onto more blue felt to cut the two cap pieces. Cut the boy's shirt front from interfacing and the two satchels from brown fabric. Cut the shorts in grey fabric.

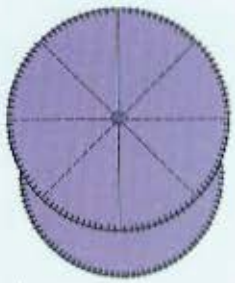
2 *Making the girl's dress* Turn a small hem along the bottom of each piece and then pin the back to the front of the dress with right sides facing; stitch the side seams from A to B. Fit the dress on the girl bear and anchor the top of the bodice in position at the shoulders.

3 *Making the boy's shorts, shirt and tie* Turn a small hem at the bottom of each shorts leg. Pin them together with right sides facing then backstitch from A to B and from C to D. Stitch the small leg seams, turn right sides out and fit the shorts on the boy bear. They will probably be quite tight around the waist but work a couple of stitches, if required, to hold them up. Anchor the shirt on the boy at the shoulders. Attach a short length of colourful braid or ribbon for the tie to the shirt front.

4 *Making the blazers* Fold each blazer with right sides together to match adjacent edges A-B. Use blue thread to backstitch these side seams. Fold each sleeve lengthways with right sides together and stitch the seam from C to D; turn the sleeve right side out. Work small running stitch round the top of the sleeve between E and F but do not finish off the thread. Turn the sleeves right side out and slip them into the jacket, matching the jacket side seam and the sleeve seam and with right sides facing. Pull up the running stitch to fit the sleeve into the armhole, then backstitch in place.

5 *Finishing the blazers* Turn the lapels back on the front of each blazer and anchor in place. Sew the pockets in position. Make a tiny school badge from the braid used for the boy's tie and glue to the left-hand side of each blazer above the pocket. Fit the blazers on your bears and sew three small buttons down the front.





6 *Making the boy's cap* Overlap the circle by putting A over B and glue down. Place the cap peak under the circle and glue in position. Work a decorative stitch such as backstitch on top of the cap, radiating from a central point, as shown, and work buttonhole stitch all round the cap and peak. Using your thread double work a French knot in the centre to form the bobble. Use a blue matching felt-tip pen to colour in any interfacing which shows round the edge. Make a tiny school badge out of the same thread as the tie and stitch or glue it to the centre of the cap peak. Stitch the finished cap in place on the boy bear.

7 *Making the girl's boater* Plait three lengths of raffia together. The boater is made by stitching the plaited raffia round and round, with each layer butting up to the previous one, as for the straw hat of the Sun-blessed Bear, step 4 (page 80). To finish tie a piece of blue ribbon round the boater to match the blazer.

8 *Making the satchels* With wrong sides together use a double length of thread and small running stitch to join each satchel front to the gusset from A to B. Take care to allow enough gusset round the bottom corners and trim off any excess gusset level with the top of the bag. Secure the bottom of the satchel back to the two bottom corners of the gusset with teddy tacks. Then join it to the gusset from C to D. Sew the strap to the outside of the gusset on each side, approximately ¼in (5mm) down from the top of the gusset. Sew the buckles onto the flap of each satchel at the dots on the back piece and at the same time catch down the flap to keep the satchel closed. Put a satchel on each bear. Cut the strap just below the shoulder on the front, stitch the strap back together and trim off excess fabric in a V-shape at the end of the strap.

HALLOWEEN BEAR

'Take my dolls, pull my hair,
Take my dog, I don't care
But never take my teddy bear.'

ANONYMOUS

A witch on her broomstick flying through the night is not an unusual sight on 31st October – Halloween night. This one has a dashing black cloak and traditional pointed hat.

The witch is based on Bartholomew (page 12) and is made of copper-coloured long-pile upholstery fabric. She stands approximately 3¼in (9.5cm) tall.

Making the Witch

Trace the pattern pieces for Bartholomew from page 15 and use them to make card templates (see page 9). Transfer the paws and pads onto a single layer of ultra suede and cut out, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each piece. Transfer the remaining pieces onto the wrong side of a single layer of upholstery fabric with the arrow on the pattern pointing in the direction of the fabric pile. Cut out the pieces, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each one. Make the bear following the instructions for Bartholomew (pages 13-18), using backstitch for seams and ladder stitch for closing seams (see page 10).

You will need

For the bear

- 6 x 9in (15 x 23cm) piece of copper-coloured long-pile upholstery fabric
- Matching ultra suede for the paws and pads
- General-purpose sewing thread to match the upholstery fabric
- Extra-strong nylon thread for jointing
- Black stranded embroidery thread for the nose
- Darning and fine sharp needles
- Polyester filling
- Pair of tiny (2mm) matching black beads or bear eyes
- ¼in (6mm) fibreboard cotter pin joint

For dressing and trimming

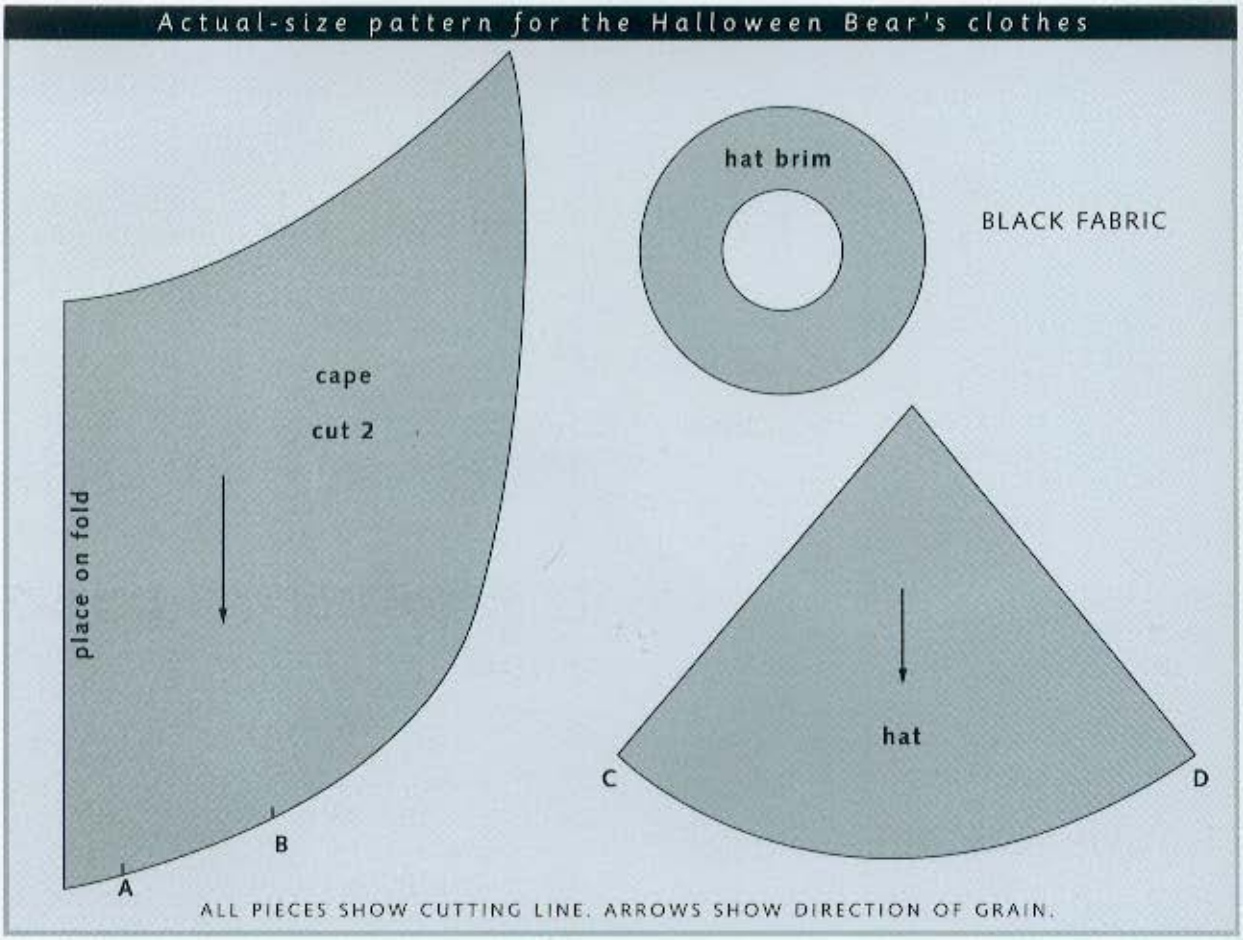
- Black fabric for the cape and hat
- Black general-purpose sewing thread
- Fray Check crystals or Bondaweb to reinforce the hat fabric
- Bunch of tiger grass or fine twigs for the broomstick head
- Wooden kebab skewer or twig for the broomstick handle
- Glue
- Black felt-tip pen (optional)
- Extra-strong nylon thread

Dressing the Witch

1 *Cutting out the pieces* Trace the patterns for the witch's clothes from page 86 and use them to cut two capes from black fabric. Remember to cut the cape on the fabric fold. Bond two pieces of black fabric together with Bondaweb or Fray Check crystals and then cut the two hat pieces from this.

2 *Making the cape* Pin the two capes together with right sides facing and stitch from A right round to B. Clip the corners and turn right sides out. Press and ladder stitch the gap closed. Fold ¼in (5mm) over on the curved top edge and press. Open out flat and work running stitch along the crease. Fold over again and gently pull up the running stitch to gather the cap and fit it round the bear's neck. Secure the running stitch and stitch in place on the bear.

Actual-size pattern for the Halloween Bear's clothes



3 *Making the hat* Fold the hat piece to place C over D and glue the seam. Then glue this to the hat brim and leave to dry well. If you can see white on the edge of the hat brim where you have bonded the two fabrics together, cover it up with a black felt-tip pen. Stitch in position on the bear.

4 *Making the broomstick* Cut the wood for the handle to 4in (10cm) and the tiger grass to 1½in (4cm). Arrange the grass around the end of the broom and use a little glue to hold it in place. Bind some thread around the grass tightly to finish off and trim the ends of the grass. Put the bear's paws together and use extra-strong nylon thread to secure them using the same method as when thread jointing. Be careful to insert the needle back into the same hole it came out of so that you don't produce a dimple. Position the bear on the broomstick.

SLEIGH RIDE BEARS

'One day when I was all grown up and sad, I happened to meet Teddy in the attic. Suddenly the years dropped away and I felt young and loved again.'

HELEN FREISER

In the first snow of winter what better method of transport for a small bear than a sleigh pulled by a bigger bear? But don't worry, the big bear won't get cold because he has a hand-knitted scarf to keep him warm.

The polar bear is basic bear No. 9 (page 40). The little bear enjoying the ride is a Baby Bear (page 32).

Making the Bears

Trace the pattern pieces for the Baby Bear from page 31 and the Polar Bear from page 41 and use them to make card templates (see page 9). Transfer the patterns to your fabric, cut out and assemble the bears following the instructions on page 32 for the Baby Bear and page 40 for the Polar Bear. Remember that for the Polar Bear the pattern line is the cutting line, while for Baby Bear the pattern line is the stitching line.

Dressing the Polar Bear

Making the scarf Cast on 12 stitches in red and work 2 rows in K1, P1 rib. Join on blue. 1st row: knit to end. 2nd row: purl to end. Repeat these two rows in red. These four rows form the pattern of alternate stripes. Continue in the striped pattern until your work measures 4¾in (12cm), ending on a blue stripe. With red, work 2 rows of K1, P1 rib. Cast off.

You will need

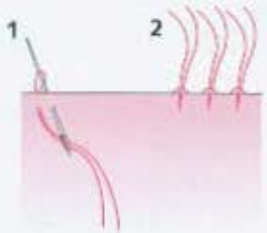
For the bear

- 6 x 7½in (15 x 19cm) piece of white upholstery fabric for the big bear
- 6 x 5in (15 x 13cm) piece of upholstery fabric for the little bear
- Ultra suede to match each fabric for the paws and pads
- General-purpose sewing threads to match the upholstery fabrics
- Extra-strong white nylon thread for jointing
- Black stranded embroidery thread for the noses
- Darning and fine sharp needles
- Polyester filling
- Pair of tiny (2mm) matching black beads or bear eyes for the big bear
- Pair of black matching seed beads for the little bear
- ¼in (6mm) fibreboard cotter pin joint for the big bear
- ¼in (6mm) metal cotter pin joint for the little bear (finer than a fibreboard cotter pin joint)

For trimmings and the sledge

- DMC 80 crochet cotton in blue and red
- Pair of No. 19 knitting needles
- Fine wire (optional)
- Two ice-lolly sticks
- Wood stain or paint and an artist's brush
- Glue

THE SCARVES AND PATTERNS WERE BOTH SUPPLIED BY MAGGIE SPACKMAN OF MINIKINS.



2 *Making the fringing* Cut 24 lengths of red crochet cotton 1½in (4cm) long. Fold each length in half and thread one length at a time onto a sewing needle. Pass the needle and thread through the first stitch on the cast-on edge, leaving an equal amount of thread either side. Thread the two ends over and through the loop, as shown. Remove the needle and pull tight. Repeat with each stitch until all twelve have been done. Repeat on the cast-off edge and trim both fringes to the preferred length.

Dressing the Baby Bear

Cast on 6 stitches in blue and work 2 rows in K1, P1 rib. Join on red. 1st row: knit to the end. 2nd row: purl to end. Repeat these two rows in red. These four rows form the pattern of alternate stripes. Continue in the striped pattern until your work measures 4¼in (11cm), ending on a red stripe. With blue, work 2 rows K1, P1 rib. Cast off. Add the fringe following the instructions in step 2 above. If you sew all the way round the scarves using very fine wire, you can bend them to give the impression of movement.

Making the sledge

1 *Making the basic structure* Cut two 2in (5cm) lengths of ice-lolly stick for the runners and four 1in (2.5cm) lengths for the top slats. Cut one end of each runner at an angle for the front of the sledge. Place the two runners parallel to each other and glue the slats across them: position one at the angled end of the runners (the front of the sledge), leave a ⅜in (1cm) gap and then place the other three an equal distance apart, with the final piece fitting flush with the back of the sledge runners. Stain or paint the sledge.

2 *Making the harness cord* Cut four 20in (51cm) lengths of blue and four 20in (51cm) lengths of red crochet cotton. Tie a knot with all eight ends and then ask someone to hold the knotted end tight while you twist the other end. Continue twisting until it starts to wrinkle, then take hold of both ends and fold in half. Give it a shake and you will have a red and blue cord. Knot the two ends together.

3 *Attaching the harness* Fold the cord in half and place it over the polar bear's back between his front and back legs. Take each end under his front legs and cross over on his tummy. Bring each end back over his front legs (his shoulders) and slip through the cord already on his back. Take each end under the first slat of the sledge and stitch to the cord coming from the polar bear's back.

CHRISTMAS BEAR

'It takes a lot of loving to turn a shop bear into a friend.'

PAM BROWN

What a happy bear this is, sitting beside the Christmas tree opening his presents. He has a delightfully shaggy coat and cheerful expression – as you'd expect from a bear in such a festive setting and with so many presents. You can recreate this whole scene, including the bear's Santa hat, the tree with its fairy at the top and the Christmas stocking from scraps of materials and a few pipe-cleaners.

Christmas Bear is made from the same pattern as Sad Old Harry, basic bear No. 2 (page 20) and he is approximately 4in (10cm) tall. For the patterns for the Christmas accessories refer to page 92. Although Christmas Bear is effectively the same bear as Sad Old Harry by changing the fabric and altering his expression you'll create a very different bear. He is made from ¼in (6mm) pile light beige mohair.

You will need

For the bear

- 6 x 9in (15 x 23cm) ¼in (6mm) pile 100% mohair in light beige
- Matching ultra suede for paws and pads
- General-purpose sewing thread to match the mohair
- Black extra-strong nylon thread for attaching the eyes
- Extra-strong nylon thread for jointing
- Black stranded embroidery thread
- Darning and fine sharp needles
- Polyester filling
- Pair of ¼in (3mm) matching black beads for eyes
- One ¼in (6mm) fibreboard cotter pin joint

For the trimmings and decorations

- Small piece of red felt for the hat
- Small piece of Christmas fabric for the stocking
- Cotton wool to trim the hat
- Small bell or silver/gold bead to go on the hat
- 1½in (3.5cm) flower pot
- Ten green pipe cleaners
- Plant stick or wooden barbecue skewer
- Selection of beads and tinsel to decorate the Christmas tree
- Ribbon for the bow round the tree pot
- White bead for the fairy's head
- Dark felt pen
- 4in (10cm) length of ribbon for the fairy's dress
- Thread to match the ribbon and fabrics
- Gold or yellow thread for the fairy's halo
- Multi-purpose glue
- 1 x 2mm wood or card for the kite
- Tissue paper
- Small piece of Fimo modelling clay and paints for the snake
- Oval silver cake board approximately 6 x 8in (15 x 20cm) for the base

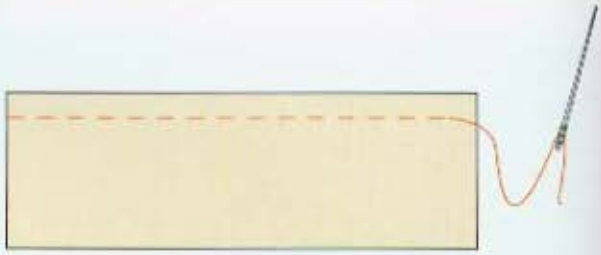
Making Christmas Bear

Trace the pieces for Sad Old Harry from page 22 and use them to make card templates (see page 9). Transfer the paws and foot pads onto a single layer of ultra suede and cut out, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each piece. Transfer the remaining pieces onto the wrong side of a single layer of miniature bear fabric with the arrow on the pattern pointing in the direction of the fabric pile. Cut out the pieces, adding an ⅛in (3mm) seam allowance around each one. Make the bear following the instructions for Sad Old Harry on page 21, using backstitch for seams and ladder stitch for closing seams (see page 10).

Making the decorations

1 *Making his hat* Cut out the hat from page 92 in red felt and fold back ⅜in (1cm) along the long straight edge. Fold the hat in half lengthways with the folded edge inside and stitch from the folded straight edge to the point. Turn the hat right side out and attach a small bell or silver/gold bead to the point. Sew a small band of cotton-wool round the rim of the hat and fit the hat on the bear. Stitch it in place with a few small stitches using matching thread.

2 *Making the Christmas tree* Cut a plant stick to 8in (20cm). Fold a green pipe-cleaner in half and place it over plant stick. Twist both ends of the pipe-cleaner and open the two ends out. Repeat with the remaining pipe-cleaners, reducing the length of the pipe-cleaners as you work up the tree. When you have used all the pipe-cleaners trim the tree to give it a good shape. Roll up some newspaper or tissue and glue it in the pot to hold the tree in position. Put a little glue on the end of the plant stick and push it firmly into the container. Leave it until the glue has dried completely.

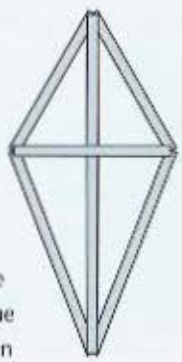


3 *Making the fairy* Mark the eyes, nose and mouth on the white bead using a felt pen. Take a 4in (10cm) length of ribbon and work running stitch just below one long edge. Pull up tight to form the dress neck frill. Stitch the ends of the ribbon together – the seam will go at the back of her dress. Glue the head in position and then glue on a circlet of gold or yellow thread for her halo.

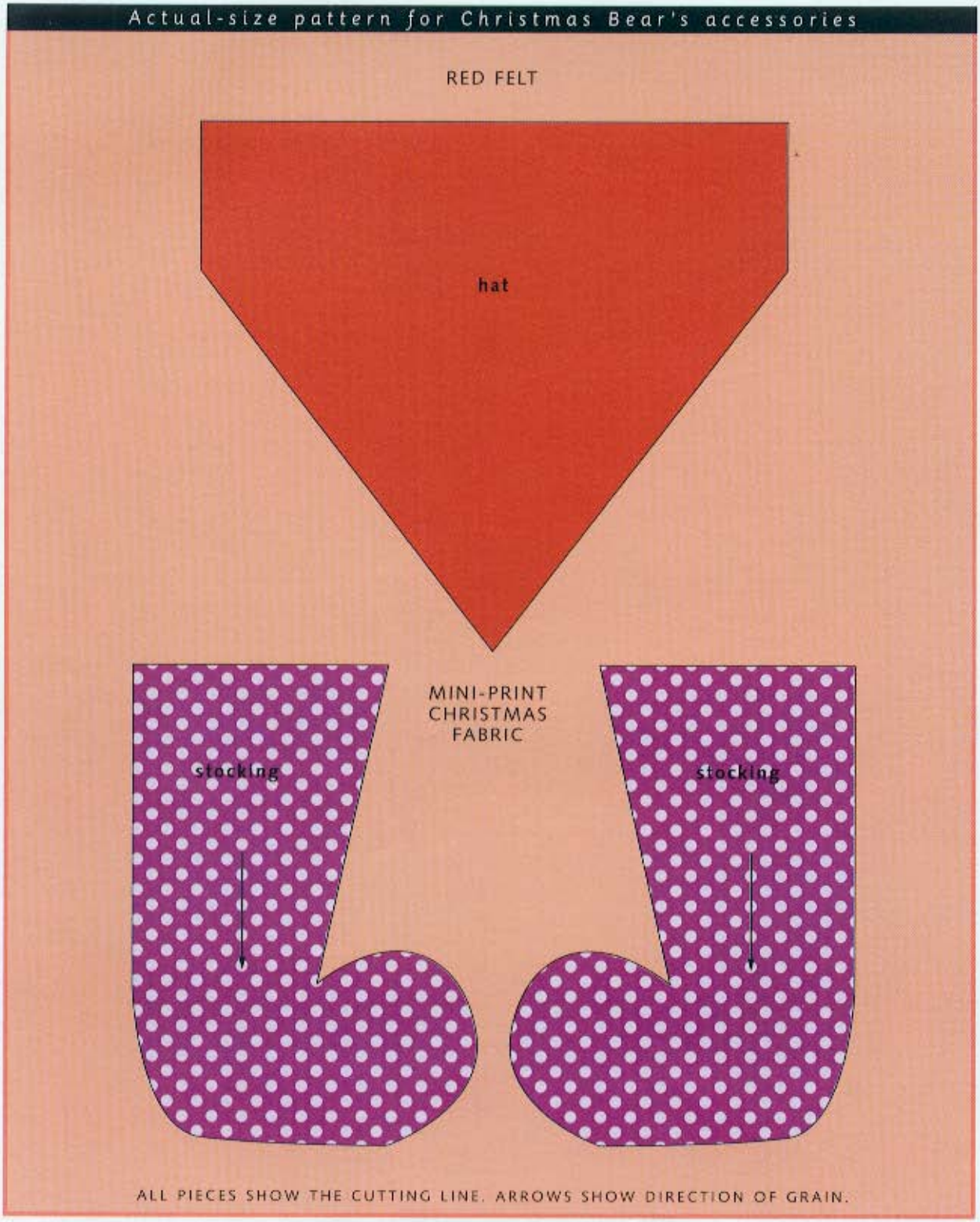
4 *Decorating the tree* Glue a small silver or gold bead onto a number of large white or red beads to make the Christmas baubles. Then attach them to the tree with thread. Split the core of a length of tinsel and trim the tinsel so it is quite short. Drape it on the tree. Repeat with another length, if required. Tie a bow round the pot to add the finishing touch.

5 *Making the Christmas stocking* Cut out the stocking pieces (page 92) in mini-print Christmas fabric. Fold the top edge of each piece over to the wrong side to neaten it. With right sides facing, pin the two stockings together and sew round the edges with backstitch. Turn the stocking right side out and pad it with a little tissue paper or cotton-wool.

6 *Making the kite* Cut one piece of 1 x 2mm wood or card 1¾in (4.5cm) long and another 1¼in (3cm) long. Glue the two pieces together to form a cross. When the glue is dry, cut pieces of wood to go round the edges to form the kite shape and glue these to the cross. Cut a piece of tissue paper the shape of the kite and glue in



Actual-size pattern for Christmas Bear's accessories



TIP – Tying the kite bows

You may find it easiest to tie the bows on the kite if you wrap the thread round a small piece of tissue. You'll only need a scrap of tissue about ¾ x ¾in (2 x 0.5cm).

THE KITE WAS DESIGNED AND MADE BY MARY STOKES.

position. To make the tail take a piece of thread approximately 8in (20cm) long. Starting at one end, tie a bow on the thread. Repeat this along the thread at approximately 1¼in (3cm) intervals until you have six bows trailing. Now you can glue this to the bottom of the kite frame. To finish, glue another piece of thread 6in (15cm) long to the centre of the kite frame and wind the end of this around a small piece of wood.

7 *Making the snake* Roll a tiny piece of green Fimo modelling clay into a long sausage and form it into a wiggly shape. Bake it following the instructions on the packet and then decorate it with a pattern when it has cooled.

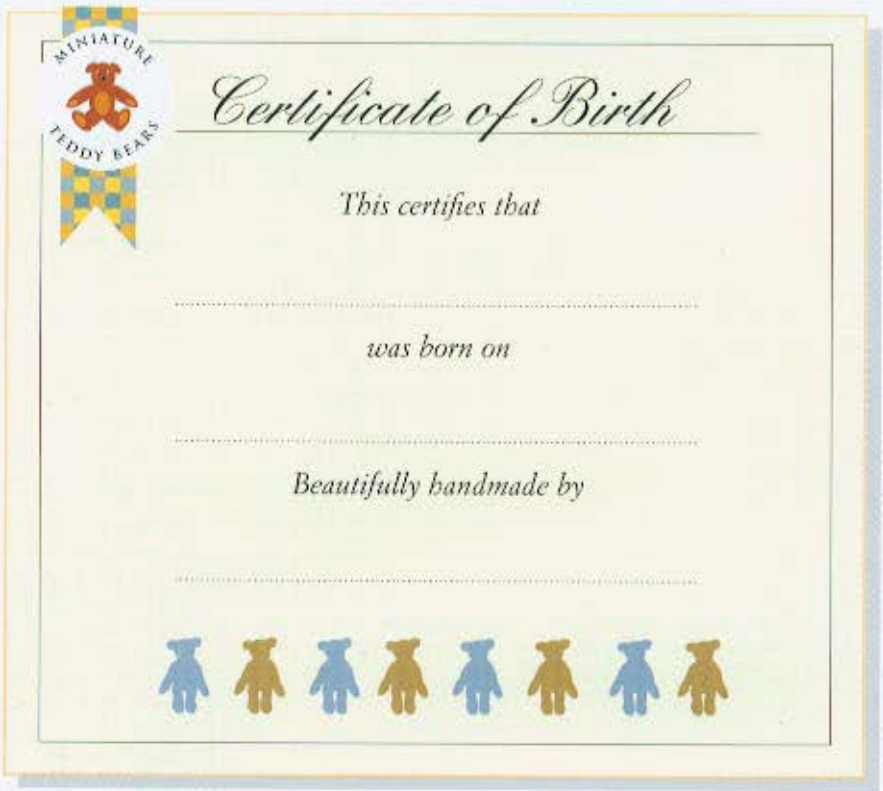
8 *Adding the presents* Wrap some tiny boxes or gifts to put under the Christmas tree. Check dolls' house suppliers for extra little items to decorate this scene.

9 *Making the base* Glue the Christmas tree to the silver cake board and secure the sitting bear with one or two pins pushed through from the underside of the base. Glue the remaining items to the base. If you wish, apply felt or Fablon (self-adhesive baize) to the underside of the base to stop the pin heads scratching the surface underneath or making the scene wobble.

BIRTH CERTIFICATE

As a bit of fun and for a permanent record why not make your bear official by creating an original birth certificate? You can keep it with your bear or make one to accompany him on his travels, so he never loses touch with his origins.

Photocopy the certificate below or generate your own, either on a computer or by writing and illustrating your own. If you photocopy a blank certificate for each bear, you can colour it in and add other embellishments as desired.



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INDEX

Illustrations in *italic*, patterns in **bold**

Aalst, Richard Van, 29
Arms, 13, *13*, 17, *17*

Baby bear, **31**, 32, *33*, 60, *61*, 88, *88*
Back to school bear, 81-3, *81*
Bartholomew, 12-18, *12*, **15**
Bases, 46, 51, 53, 57, 62, 70, 74, 80, 93
Bauble, 57, *57*
Beads, 8, 19, 27, 39, 43, 69, 90
Beatrice, 19, *19*
Bikini, **78**, 79
Birth certificate, 94, *94*
Blazer, **80**, 82
Board, mount, 46; sleeve, 8
Boater, 83
Body, 13, *13*
Bondaweb, 73, 78
Bottlebrush Blossom bear, 8, 42-5, *42*, **44-5**
Bouquet, 69, *69*
Bower, *64*, 70
Bows, 18, *18*, 19, 48, 50, 73, 93
Broomstick, 86
Brush, teasel, 8, 18

Cap, **80**, 82
Cape, 85, **86**
Cardboard, 8, 46
Chamberlain, Wendy and Megan, 26
Christmas bear, 89-93, *91*; fairy, 90, *91*; stocking, 90, **92**; tree, 90, *91*
Claws, 78
Collar, 19, *19*, 39, **39**, 57, **59**
Cord, harness, 88
Cotter pin, 8, 16, *16*, 37, 43
Cravat, 65, **66**
Cutting out, 9-10

Dental floss, 43
Dress, 62, **62**, 65, **67-8**, 69, 70, **70**, 82, **83**

Ears, 8, 16, **16**, 20, 27, 33, 43
Elizabeth, 24-5, *25*
Eyes, 8, 16, *16*, 21, 43

Fablon, 46, 93
Fabric, 6-7; pile, 9
Felt, 6
Filling, 14, *14*
Fillings, 7
Finishing, 18; off, 11
Flag, 74, **74-5**
Foot pads, 14, *14*, 27, 40
Forceps, 8, 11, 32
Fray Check, 6, 20, 73, 78
Fraying, 6, 11, 13, 20; proofing, 6, 20, 32, 73
Fringing, 88

George, 26-8, *26*, *27*, **28**
Glue, 8, 73; Hi-Tack, 8; PVA, 6, 20

Halloween bear, 84-6, *85*
Hancock, Loris, 42
Harry, 6, 20-3, *20*, *21*, **22-3**
Hat, 37, **39**, 48, **48**, 53, **54**, 57, 65, **66**, 73, **74**, 80, 86, **86**, 90, **92**
Head, 14, 14, 16, *16*
Head-dress, 69

Interfacing, 6, 48, 62, 69, 73-5 *passim*

Jacket, 65, **66**, 73, **75**
Jester, 55-9, *56*, **58-9**
Joints/jointing, cotter pin, 7, 8, 16, *16*, 37, 43, double, 48; thread, 7, 8, 17, *17*, 31, 51

Kite, 90, 93, *93*

Lace, 19, 46
Legs, 13, *13*, 17, *17*, 27, 30, 34, 72-3
Lining, 46

Maypole bear, 60-2, *61*
Misserian, Sarah, 36
Mohair, 6, 21, 62
Mouth, 18, *18*

Nail varnish, 6, 73
Necklace, *26*, 27
Needles, 8
New Year bear, 47-8, *47*
Nose, 17, *17*, 21, 25, *25*, 33, 43, 47

Origami paper, 39

Patterns, 9 and *passim*; transferring, 9, 11
Pete, 8, 36-9, *37*, **38**
Pinwheel, 39
Pliers, 8, 43, 48
Polar bear, 40-1, *40*, **41**, 87, *88*

Raffia, 83
Ribbon, 18, 19, 21, 27, 43, 48, 50, 51, 69, 73-5 *passim*, 90

Satchel, 83, **83**
Scarf, 87-8, *88*
Scenes, 48, 51, 62, 80
Schramm, Hanne, 32
Scissors, 8
Sculpting, face, 19, 21, *21*, 30; legs, 34
Shamrocks, 53, **54**
Shirt, 48, **48**, 73, **75**, 82, **83**
Shoelaces, 73
Shorts, **80**, 82
Sledge, 88
Sleigh ride bear, 87-8, *88*
Snake, 93, *93*
Stiletto, 43
Stitches, 10-11, *10-11*; Teddy tacks, 25
Stitching line, 10, 11, 37
St Patrick's Day bear, 52-4, *53*
Straw, hat, 80
Suedette, 6-7
Sun-blessed bear, 76-80, *77*
Suppliers, 95

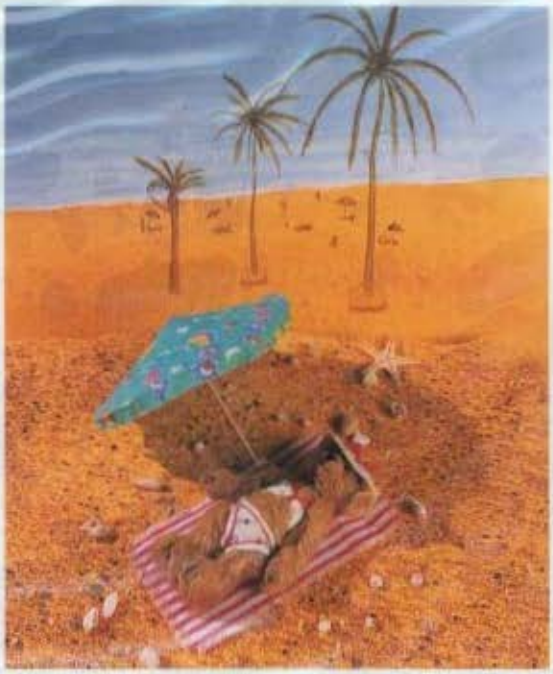
Tassel, 37, *37*
Templates, 8, 9
Thomas, 29-31, *29*, **30**
Threads, 7; metallic, 48
Tie, 48, 50, 73, 82
Tiger grass, 86
Tools, 8 *see also individual entries*
Towel, **78**, 80
Trousers, 56-7, **59**, 64, **66**
Tweezers, 8, 14

Ultra-suede, 6
Umbrella, **79**, 80
Uncle Sam bear, 71-5, *72*, **74-**

Valentine bear, 49-51, *49*, **51**
Veil, **68**, 69
Velvet, 6

Waistcoat, **54**
Walter, 33-5, *33-4*, **35**
Wax, 43
Wedding bears, 63-70, *64*, **66-8**

MAKING AND DRESSING
MINIATURE TEDDY BEARS



- Ten adorable and easy-to-make miniature teddy bears
- Simple step-by-step instructions and full-size patterns to trace
- Delightful dressed bears for special occasions such as Valentine's Day, Christmas, a wedding or Fourth of July celebrations

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